

# T Southern TIDINGS

MAY 2019

BIBLE WORKERS PROVIDE

## *Inspiration to Witness*

THE BLESSINGS  
OF RETURNING A  
FAITHFUL TITHE

OPENING HEARTS

PARTNERING  
WITH THE LORD

SOMETIMES  
YOU JUST  
HAVE TO  
MAKE TIME

# The Gospel Changes Everything



**Benjamin Jones**  
President of the  
South Central Conference

*Guest Editorial*

**D**uring this year where we focus on preaching the Gospel across the Southern Union territory, we have a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of men and women, boys and girls. When Jesus walked this Earth, every encounter He had with those He met was life transforming, and ours can be the same.

In Luke 4:18,19 NKJV, Jesus declared His mission statement:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Jesus came to make people’s lives better. I came across a statement some years ago that I never forgot.

“Our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as the unwearied servant of man’s necessity. He “took our infirmities, and bore our sicknesses,” that He might minister to every need of humanity,” Matthew 8:17.

“The burden of disease, and wretchedness and sin, He came to remove. It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character,” *Ministry of Healing*, 17.1.

“Varied were the circumstances and needs of those who besought His aid, and none who came to Him went away unhelped. From Him flowed a stream of healing power, and in body and mind and soul men were made whole,” *Ministry of Healing*, 17.2.

When I was young, I saw the power of the Gospel to change lives firsthand. I grew up in a small church in northern Ohio. Our church had 68 members on the books. One year, the conference sent us a young pastor who was on fire for the Lord. He pitched a tent in a densely populated residential area. I invited the family who lived across the street from the meeting to come and hear my preacher. There were three members in the family — a mother, a teenage daughter, and a father who was a heavy drinker. The mother and daughter came every night; the father did not want anything to do with the meeting. Back in those days, evangelistic series lasted eight weeks.

During the next eight weeks, I watched a curious change. I noticed that for the first week the father left the front door opened so he could hear the sermons. Then, the second week he listened from the front porch. By the last week, he had moved to the last roll of the tent, and when the final appeal was made to give your heart to God and be baptized, he joined his wife and daughter in giving his life to Christ. That man became a great father, a wonderful husband, and a solid member of our Church. The Gospel changed everything for that family. It still has that power today. I encourage you to join us this year in telling the world about Jesus. ①

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## features

4  
BIBLE WORKERS PROVIDE  
INSPIRATION TO WITNESS

8  
THE BLESSINGS OF  
RETURNING A FAITHFUL TITHE

9  
OPENING HEARTS

10  
CARE — EQUIP — COMPLY

12  
SOMETIMES YOU JUST  
HAVE TO MAKE TIME

13  
PARTNERING WITH THE LORD

14  
RALPH B. HAIRSTON SR., RETIRED  
SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE  
PRESIDENT, PASSES

16  
SOUTHEASTERN HOLDS  
2019 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

## news

18 CAROLINA  
20 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND  
22 GULF STATES  
24 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE  
26 SOUTH ATLANTIC  
28 ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY  
29 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST  
UNIVERSITY

30 OBITUARIES  
38 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING  
45 EVENTS CALENDAR  
46 ANNOUNCEMENTS/SUNSET  
SCHEDULE  
47 CAMP MEETINGS/SUMMER CAMPS  
SCHEDULES





BIBLE WORKERS PROVIDE

# *Inspiration to Witness*

*"As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, 'Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.' So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed," Mark 5:18-20 NIV.*

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

Like foot soldiers in the military who protect our country in times of war, Bible workers or counselors beat the pavement and knock on countless doors to try to bring

people to Christ amid today's spiritual warfare. They are key partners in the process of leading people to Jesus, and preparing them for church membership. Every church needs volunteers who will



Joyce Thrower sits with some of the 38 baptismal candidates she and other Bible workers prepared for baptism during a 2017 evangelistic meeting held by William Smith, director of the publishing department at the Southern Union, and Larry Johnson, pastor at the Gethsemane Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

do Bible work. But, more specifically, every church needs witnesses — something any believer is capable of being because we all have a story about how Christ has touched our lives. He wants us to tell others.

These stories about Bible workers and how they go about sharing Christ will hopefully inspire you to do just that.

### Joyce Thrower

At first Joyce Thrower did not think she was cut out to be a Bible worker. More than one person told her she should seriously consider it, but Thrower just wasn't feeling it. That is, however, until the Holy Spirit convicted her. When she did finally listen, and began doing Bible work in Huntsville, Alabama, in 2012, it did not take long for her to start winning souls, even though, she acknowledges, some were tougher to persuade than others.

About a year after becoming a Bible worker, she met a woman in the small

city of Monroe, North Carolina, who was a known alcoholic. The woman was receptive to the Bible studies and meetings, and even attended church on Sabbath. But, when there was an opportunity to be baptized, Thrower says the woman would find some excuse not to do it. Her biggest excuse was that she needed to be sober before fully giving her life to Christ. Thrower says she kept praying for the woman. Then one Sabbath, out of the blue, the woman decided to be baptized. And, she stopped drinking. Thrower was overjoyed.

"I was happy for her because she wanted to change her lifestyle," says Thrower, who is part of the South Atlantic Conference, continuing, "and she loved Jesus so much, that she decided on her own."

Thrower says the woman's decision to get baptized affected those close to her. Some became interested in Bible study, and others started attending a

Seventh-day Adventist church. Thrower says such stories of success motivate her to witness any chance she gets, which is why she does so on her part-time job as a Lyft driver.

"Sometimes I'll pray for the individual in the vehicle if I see they don't mind me doing it," she says. "Otherwise, I let them know, 'I belong to a prayer group, and we will put your name on our prayer list.' And, usually they appreciate that."

Adds Thrower: "I enjoy meeting people, talking about the love of Jesus, and just seeing them fall in love with Christ."

At the same time, she says soul winners have a responsibility to make sure the individuals they bring to Christ stay in the Church. That means staying engaged with them, as much as possible.

"If they give their hearts to Christ, but then they leave, then our work will have been in vain," says Thrower.



## Minger Nesmith

Minger Nesmith, also in the South Atlantic Conference, has been a Bible counselor for 12 years, and he acknowledges that what they do can be hard work.

"You may get 20 rejections before that one person comes to the door," says Nesmith.

However, the rejections are worth it if just one person is brought to Christ. Nesmith recalls giving Bible studies to a woman in Atlanta, Georgia, who was a Baptist.

"I'm a Baptist, and I'm going to die a Baptist," he recalls the woman saying.

But, as Nesmith and his team continued giving her lessons, the Holy Spirit started to work. The woman gained a better understanding of the Sabbath day, and took a stance on her job. She decided not to work on the Sabbath. Nesmith and a pastor wrote her a letter to take to her employer.

After about two months of Bible study, Nesmith says the woman got baptized. She did not lose her job, and she's currently a strong member in the Church.

For anyone who wants to be a Bible worker, Nesmith says to be prayerful and "make sure their relationship is intact with



Minger Nesmith talks with a student.

God. Allow them to see Christ in you."

Nesmith says he and some of his colleagues plan to open a training school that will assist individuals who want to become Bible workers. One of those colleagues, Nesmith says, is his mentor, Darrel Jackson, who has been a Bible worker nationally and internationally more than 35 years. He has brought more than 5,000 people to Christ ... and he's not close to being done.

## Darrel Jackson

After hearing his story, one might say Darrel Jackson was destined to be a Bible worker. He learned about Adventism more than 40 years ago, in 1977, while visiting a friend in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was not much of a churchgoer.

"I went once a year, and that was on Easter," recalls Jackson.

His friend's cousin came over, and Jackson and the young woman hit it off. During a walk together, they were approached by a woman selling *Message* magazines. Jackson purchased one, which came with a free copy of the book, *Steps to Christ*. When she saw the book, the young woman with Jackson said she was familiar with it, and they discussed the free correspondence course in the back of the book. She said the course and subsequent lessons were informative, and that they had led her to become an Adventist. At first, Jackson says he took the Bible study course just to score points with his friend's cousin. But, as he read the lessons, he found them interesting, and before he knew it, he had completed the course. Still curious, Jackson asked the young woman if there was a church nearby that taught what was in the lessons. She told him yes, the one that she attended. When he visited, there was a new pastor who had not yet arrived. However, he was at that year's Camp Meeting. Jackson asked to attend,



Darrel Jackson teaches during a Bible study session.

and out of the hundreds of people there, he just happened to run into the new pastor. It was a Holy Spirit-filled connection. After talking with the pastor and other Adventists at the Camp Meeting, Jackson asked to be baptized there.

Six months later, he married his friend's cousin, Patricia Harris, and he began to work in literature evangelism. Today, his Bible work, as well as his marriage, are blessed.

Jackson says he hopes more people will consider Bible work. But, for those who may not be comfortable doing so, there are other ways to steer people to Christ.

"We all have different gifts," says Jackson, who is in the South Central Conference, but frequently works abroad. "There's something all of us can do in the area of evangelism" ... even if that person is behind bars, like Don Johnson.

### Don Johnson

In 1984, Don Johnson was convicted of murdering his wife in a Memphis camping center that he managed, and he is currently on death row in Tennessee. However, during his incarceration, Johnson became a Christian and began leading a religious service. Recently, a petition was started requesting clemency for Johnson, who supporters say was redeemed by Jesus. The petition, which is being reviewed by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, includes a plea



**Don Johnson was led to Christ by a lay Bible worker while on death row. Now he leads religious services, and gives Bible studies to his fellow inmates on death row.**

from Cynthia Vaughn, the daughter of the woman Johnson was convicted of killing. Vaughn is also Johnson's stepdaughter, and says she's forgiven him.

At a news conference announcing the clemency campaign, Furman Fordham II, pastor, explained that Johnson's journey to becoming ordained as an elder at the Riverside Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, while serving time on death row began when a now-deceased church member started a Bible study with

Johnson 30 years ago.

When Fordham came to Nashville in 2006 to lead Riverside, he met Johnson in prison and was amazed to see an inmate leading a religious service.

"It said to me that Don's ministry was moving full circle," says Fordham. He later met an ex-prisoner who had studied the Bible with Johnson.

Johnson says he accepts God's will, "but ... doesn't feel his work on Earth is done yet."

Supporters of Johnson, including Fordham, believe commuting his sentence to life in prison instead of death will allow him to continue to win souls for Christ.

Fordham says Johnson is another example of how anyone can be used to witness. He points to the story in the book of Mark, when Jesus heals the demoniac. When the man asks to stay with Jesus, He tells the man to go tell others what the Lord has done for him.

"He's an authority on his story, and the people who knew him before, knew that a change had taken place," says Fordham. "I believe that all of us have the capacity to say, 'This is what Jesus has done for me.'" ❶

**Lucas L. Johnson II** is a former reporter for *The Associated Press*. He is also author of the book, *Finding the Good*, which was featured on *National Public Radio*.

## TIPS ON SHARING CHRIST

- Pray for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Read books about evangelism, like Ellen G. White's *Gospel Workers*.
- Be passionate about drawing people to Christ and hastening His return.
- Don't be timid or shy. Be confident when you talk about the Bible; know your stuff.
- Look for opportunities to participate in evangelism training programs.
- Don't worry about results. You cannot save anyone. People come to Christ only through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray consistently for opportunities to share Christ with others.
- Try to live a consistent Christian life before everyone.
- Make a list of people you would like to win.
- Share your testimony.

# *The Blessings of Returning* A FAITHFUL TITHE

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

Two months after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Osvaldo Ayala came to this country from Cuba to start a new life with his family. Ayala worked for the Church in Cuba, but here he had to find a new path. The question was ... where?

One morning he took a bus and prayed, "Lord, I am going to get off this bus in the first construction site I see, and ask for a job. Please be with me." And, he did. Once off the bus, he walked, wondering where to start. He saw a man who was not wearing construction clothes and approached him. In broken English he said, "I need a job." The man, noticing his struggle to communicate, asked three simple questions, "Do you have experience?" Coming from a country where people have to learn many things besides what pertains to their work, Ayala answered positively. "Do you have a car?" was his second question. That was a tough question because Ayala did not have a car. The man explained that having a car was necessary, because very often he would have to go from one project to another in the same day. The last question was, "Do you use drugs?" "Never," was Ayala's immediate answer. Ayala told him where he was from and the reason he came to the United States. In his best English he made the following proposition, "I am willing to work one week for free. If I do not perform as you expect, I will leave." The man sent him to see a supervisor. What Ayala did not know then was that this person was the company's vice-president.

Ayala worked for ADE Builders Inc. for six months. They raised his salary four times. After this period, he was invited to work as the manager of two dental clinics, and he worked for two years, until the recession of 2008 when those clinics were sold. Then, he decided to



start his own company.

Ayala came to this country to enjoy freedom and achieve the American dream. This is something unthinkable in the culture where he came from, especially if you are not a communist or if you have religious beliefs. Once in the United States, he did many things besides working to earn a living. He achieved a real estate license and a bachelor's degree in business management. While accomplishing these things, he realized the stock market was something he had a great interest in. He did some research on where to learn about

it. He found a trading academy, and took a three-hour seminar to find out if he would be interested in continuing this line of training. He enjoyed it and enrolled in a three-day course.

Ayala enjoyed every minute of the training, but the surprising factor came at the end. During the three days of the seminar, the instructor told the audience that there was a formula to succeed in the financial world, but he never said what it was. At the conclusion, he went to the board and wrote the formula. It was something no one expected: "The financial success lays in first giving God 10 percent of all your earnings, and use another 10 percent to help others." Having written that, he added, "Personally, I give more than 10 percent to people in need."

Two Scriptures came to Ayala's mind: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it," Malachi 3:10, and "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it," Proverbs 10:22.

Osvaldo Ayala is the stewardship director of the Atlanta First Hispanic Church in Tucker, Georgia. 📞



**Mariel Lombardi**  
is the SURF customer service and accounts manager at the Southern Union in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.



# OPENING HEARTS

BY RACHEL BEAVER

Growing up, Paola Mora Zepeda had a zest for Jesus and an eagerness to publicly express her beliefs.

“I was always ready to stand up for the invitation of baptism or for the opportunity for someone to pray for my spiritual life,” Zepeda said.

However, as she grew older, she found herself responding to appeals less and less. Then, a spring break trip gave her a new perspective. This March, as a sophomore digital broadcast major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, she went on a trip to the Dominican Republic with Southern’s Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC).

When she learned that she would need to make spiritual appeals every night during the sermons she was scheduled to give, she became frustrated. But, a conversation with the local pastor of her host church helped her see things differently.

“He told me, ‘When you call people, you are tugging at their hearts to make a decision. Little by little, the heart of the person is being opened so that Jesus may enter,’” Zepeda said. “This conversation changed everything for me.”

On her final Sabbath preaching, she silently prayed that the Lord would touch the heart of someone during her last appeal.

“As an answer to my prayer and as a result of the Holy Spirit, a visitor — one who had come to every meeting but who had never responded to the appeals — walked to the front,” Zepeda said. “God had been working on her heart that whole week, and after many appeals, she was finally ready to accept Jesus.”

Every year, thousands of individuals surrender their hearts to God through the work of ERC participants. This volunteer evangelistic program gives students at Southern the opportunity to share their faith and connect with people around the world. Since



As a speaker during an evangelistic spring break trip to the Dominican Republic, Paola Mora Zepeda (back) was able to witness God working on individuals’ hearts.



In total, more than 1,300 individuals were baptized in Zimbabwe last year following the efforts of 23 ERC speakers.

the program’s beginning in 2001, more than 1,300 students have participated, and at least 32,000 individuals have been baptized. Raul Rivero, ERC coordinator, gives God all the credit for the amazing work that takes place on these trips.

“It’s not because of what we do,” Rivero said. “We just participate in what God is already doing in the local churches.”

## Great Celebration

For Samuel Nzoikorera, senior theology major at Southern, the highlight of an ERC trip to Zimbabwe that he joined last year was witnessing how celebrated baptisms are in that country.

“Following our meetings, I had five people who were going to be baptized, and I thought that it would be just a handful of people at the event,” Nzoikorera said. “But, when we arrived at the baptismal site, I was shocked to see a sea of people coming to support those who were going to be baptized — at least 2,000 people. I had never seen such a celebration of baptism. My soul leaps for joy for such an experience!”

Southern students from all different majors have been blessed through the ERC trips. Now, more individuals will have this opportunity. Georgia-Cumberland Conference’s Adventist Christian Fellowship has recently partnered with Southern to give Adventist students attending public colleges within the conference the chance to receive a subsidy, and participate in what God is doing through these evangelistic trips. To learn more, visit [southern.edu/erc](http://southern.edu/erc). ❶

**Rachel Beaver** is a senior public relations major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

# CARE — EQUIP — COMPLY

It began with a dream — a dream of caring for employees, equipping them with tools for their work, and ultimately leading them in compliance with human resource procedures. The dream became a reality when Yasmin Then, human resource/talent management director, orchestrated the first Human Resource (HR) Summit to be held for Florida Conference on January 27, 2019.

“The majority of issues we deal with from a legal standpoint, from a preventive standpoint, and sometimes from a crisis standpoint all emanate out of HR issues,” said Jim Davidson, executive secretary of Southern Union Conference. “I want to thank the Florida Conference for this initiative.”

HR Summit encompassed a vast majority of the Florida Conference employee base, with emphasis placed on school principals, business managers, vice presidents, directors, associate directors, pastors, ABC personnel, and Camp Kulaqua department directors.

No stone was left unturned in providing knowledgeable presenters in their respected fields of expertise.

*“The Summit was a unique opportunity for learning and growth in understanding vital HR processes and procedures, as well as development of self. The knowledge gained was very practical, and I commend the Florida Conference for their vision in providing this resource.”*

—Greg Ellis, executive director for mission and ministry at AdventHealth

## General Sessions

**Mental Health and Ministry** — Jay Perez, vice president of mission and ministry for AdventHealth

“Embrace your limitations and be aware how you project this on to others,” said Perez. “Live in the here and now. We are called not to perfectionism but to excellence. A life of excellence is eternally



**Yasmin Then, Florida Conference human resource/talent management director, envisioned holding an HR Summit to care and equip employees to be in compliance with human resource procedures.**

driven. The deepest longing of the soul is for intimacy with God and others.”

**Respect in the Workplace** — Allison Osborn D'Amour, attorney at Fisher Phillips Orlando office

In every work place, a culture should be created in which all employees are treated as equals, and they treat one another with mutual respect. A positive culture leads to a respectful environment for all employees with fewer complaints, charges, or insults, and improved morale and efficiency.

**In Times of Crisis** — Paul Timm, vice president of Facility Engineering Associates of Chicago

Practical security is of the utmost importance for church, schools, and camps. Whatever practices are being used must be documented. Schools need to have a mass notification system.

*“I brought Camp Kulaqua department directors to the HR Summit, and Paul Timm opened our eyes to being*

*prepared for emergency management.”*

—Phil Younts, executive director of Florida Conference Camp Ministries

**Ask the Experts** — Reneé Whittaker, moderator and HR generalist at Florida Conference

The use of technology was at the forefront during a panel discussion skillfully led by Whittaker. Attendees used their electronic devices to send questions to the moderator who shared them with the appropriate presenters.

**The Power of Purpose** — Nikki Stumpf, dedicated to making HR a strategic business partner with the organization

Everyone was encouraged to “grow the most in the areas of your greatest strength,” said Stumpf. “If you want something you’ve never had, you have to do something you’ve never done.”

## Break-Out Sessions

- **Wage and Hour Compliance** — Renata Sobral, employment lawyer with Fisher Phillips Orlando
- **How to Create Bullet Proof Documentation** — Joseph Doukmetzian, claims counsel with Adventist Risk Management
- **How Church Structure Affects Ministry** — Karnick Doukmetzian, general counsel for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
- **Streamlining the Onboarding Process** — Aric Turlington, systems and technology analyst at Florida Conference; and Vanesa Gaitan, HR specialist for Florida Conference
- **When Workers Don't Work** — Sylvia Adams, associate chief legal officer for labor and employment at AdventHealth.
- **Managing Performance and Terminations** — Allison Osbourne D'Amour, attorney with Fisher Phillips Orlando
- **Emergency Management** — Paul





Experts from the various sessions gathered as a panel to discuss questions raised by the audience.

Timm, vice president of Facility Engineering Associates of Chicago

- **School Treasurers and School Board Chairpersons** — George Carrazana, associate superintendent of finance for Florida Conference

#### Message from the President

“Walking together in a Summit like this means that we at the Conference are here to serve you,” said Allan Machado,

president of Florida Conference. “It is important to learn to do business right in a complex world like we are living in today. We need to learn, to grow, and to educate ourselves.”

#### Conclusion

At the conclusion of the event, one attendee best described the day:

*“The Summit was wonderful, infor-*

*mative, helpful, and extremely well-executed. From breakfast to worship, and from break-out sessions to guest speakers, the time together was well spent!”*

—Nieves Jenkins, principal of Osceola Adventist Christian School

Recordings of the proceedings are available on video for employee improvement. 📺



Attendees at Florida Conference’s first HR Summit held at Markham Woods Church, Longwood, Fla., listened to the first general session on mental health and ministry.



Renata Sobral, employment lawyer with Fisher Phillips Orlando, led a break-out session on wage and hour compliance.



# Sometimes You Just Have to MAKE TIME

BY GLADYS M. NEIGEL



## ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"I truly hope folks will see that no matter how many chores you have, you can always *make* time for doing the Lord's work. Working with the homeless has truly taught me patience, empathy, and *never* to complain, because at any point in time, I could always be homeless, too."

—Audree Santana



PHOTO BY: NICOLE MCINTYRE

"When the rest of the world is having a good time at the holiday season," says Audree Santana, "I don't want the homeless to feel left out."

For more than 10 years, Audree Santana has made a difference as she quietly and passionately works with homeless people.

Every time Audree Santana went through the intersection of Route 326 and I-75 in Ocala, Florida, she encountered homeless people who lived under the bridge. Surprisingly, she even found homeless people in her classroom. In a recent Point in Time count (a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January), there are "271 unsheltered homeless people, ranging in age from 12 to 82, living outside in the elements in Marion County."

Santana had a jammed-packed schedule already with teaching, pursuing a Ph.D., and being CEO of an income tax preparation business; as well as various choral activities and personal ministry activities, including

cards and visits for the sick and shut-ins. What could one person do? "Sometimes, you just have to *make* time," she says. She began by making small packages containing ready-to-eat items, and keeping them handy on her front passenger seat.

When a kind woman allowed the homeless to move to woods behind the bridge, Santana assisted them by getting donations of tents, warm clothing, and personal hygiene products. She was thankful when the Hilton Hotel donated more than 50 blankets and bed pads through the assistance of Shadai Perez, an employee and church member. From the summer of 2008 until 2012, Santana cooked a wholesome meal for the homeless every Sunday, and sometimes on a weekday.

When this group of homeless dissipated, Santana looked for new people to help. She located a kitchen-on-wheels type of operation in town, and asked if they could use the food she had. The woman hugged her almost breathless and said, "Thank you, Jesus! You, young lady, are the answer to our prayers as one of our faithful helpers cannot return to help." Santana is usually there helping on Thursdays.

Every holiday season, Santana's ministry includes renting a pavilion at the park, and giving the homeless literature, clothing, and a warm meal in addition to entertaining them. She appreciates the support she receives from friends at area Adventist churches and her family. ❶

# PARTNERING

## *with the Lord*

BY BETH GRISSOM

In the spring of 2017, “Sharon” was anxious — anxious because she was headed on a 5 1/2-hour trip without her parents to Music Festival at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) in Asheville, North Carolina. She was with her teacher and classmates, but coming from a very small school and only being in seventh grade made her very nervous. “Will I even be able to sing? Will I feel lost with so many people around that I don’t know?” she wondered.

Arriving on campus, she felt awkward at first. The place was big and there were a lot of people she didn’t know, but everyone was so nice. “They came up to me and wanted to be my friend,” Sharon remembered.

After registration and worship, they started practicing for their concert. “The first day of practice was a disaster — none of us knew what we were doing — but, by the concert, was amazing. We all stood up together and sang music for the Lord. It made such an impact on me! On the ride home, all I could think about was how much I wanted to go to Pisgah. I started praying that one day that would be my school.”

Arriving home, she spoke with her mother and learned that the cost to attend MPA was too expensive for their family. Though it seemed impossible, Sharon isn’t easily discouraged. She decided to see if there was anything she could do.

Instead of presents for her birthday and Christmas, she asked for money to save for MPA. She began asking for odd jobs to raise money. She worked hard at school to get good grades to increase the possibility of earning scholarships. Sharon said, “I was determined to do whatever I could do, so I worked hard and prayed.”

At her eighth-grade graduation, Louis Parra, a teacher at MPA, was their commencement speaker. He was also there to distribute scholarships. “I was so surprised



PHOTO BY: BECKY CAIN



PHOTO BY: BECKY CAIN



PHOTO BY: BECKY CAIN

and excited when I got a \$4,000 scholarship,” Sharon said. “I cried and cried... a lot!”

That summer, Sharon offered to take care of her 10-month-old twin siblings full time so that the family could pay her instead of the child caregiver. She saved every penny. “It wasn’t easy,” she remembered, “taking care of twins is hard work, and all day long, every day was exhausting, but I had to do my part!”

When all was said and done, Sharon had saved enough money for her registration fees and the first month’s tuition. In addition, the academic scholarship she earned

reduced the monthly tuition. Sharon never let doubt keep her from succeeding. She never gave up, and as a result, she is now a student at Mount Pisgah Academy.

Stella Bradley, English teacher at MPA said, “Sharon is a bright ray of sunshine on our campus. She is kind, studious, witty, and friendly. So glad she is here!”

Sharon said, “This is a new adventure that I know God wanted me to experience.”

So many times we see obstacles instead of opportunities. Sharon saw an opportunity, and then partnered with God to make it happen. ●

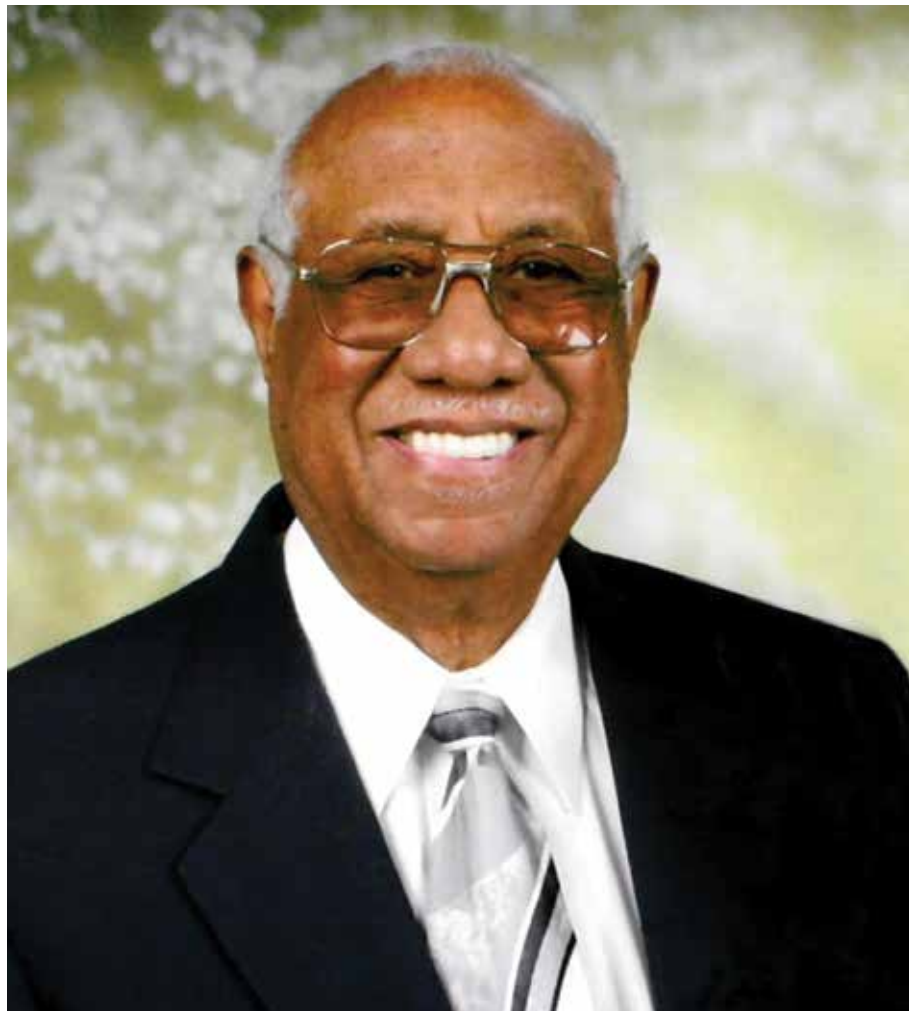


# RALPH B. HAIRSTON SR., *Retired South Atlantic Conference President, Passes*

Ralph B. Hairston Sr., 96, was born December 17, 1923, in Atlanta, Georgia, to the late Forest and Fannie Hairston. He passed January 28, 2019. His mother died when he was two years old, and his father raised seven children. In addition to Ralph, there were Lizzie Mae Hawk, Ethel Bell Miller, Forest Hairston Jr., Clara Hairston, Charles Hairston, and Edward Hairston. He received his early education from Howard High School in Atlanta, where he met Katherine L. Latimore. Ralph would often walk from school with Katherine, as they became good friends. Also, he attended Thomas Jefferson High School in Los Angeles, California.

He was drafted into the United States Army in 1943, and was honorably discharged in 1945. He served during World War II in battles and campaigns in Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe, where he survived several life-threatening attacks from the enemy. After surviving an attack in Central Europe, he made a promise and commitment to God. Sargent Ralph Hairston was a demolition expert, and received three bronze stars, American Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Medal. It was during this time he met his life-long friend Corporal Joe Hinson. The Great War ended, and the prayers of his family brought him safely home.

After his honorable discharge, he returned to Atlanta, where he stayed for five years. He then moved to California to live with his cousin, Jester Joseph Hairston, American composer and actor. During this time, God reminded him of his promise, and he fulfilled his commitment to God



and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in August 1946, in Los Angeles, along with his friend, Leonard G. Newton. This is also where he met family friends E. C. Ward and Calvin Rock. Because of

his conversion, Hairston felt that God was leading him to attend Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, Alabama.

Hairston entered Oakwood in 1948 and





Ralph B. Hairston Sr., was one of six South Atlantic presidents living in 1997. Harold Singleton (seated, left) 1945-1954; Vanard Mendinghall, 1997-2011; Ralph Peay, 1988-1997; Warren Banfield (standing, left), 1960-1971; Robert Woodfork, 1971-198; Ralph B. Hairston Sr., 1981-1988; not pictured, John Wagner, 1954-1960; and William L. Winston, 2011-present.



Ralph and Katherine Hairston were married for 70 years.



The Hairstons and four of their five children: Anthony, Angela, Teresa, and Ralph Jr. Derrick is not pictured.

graduated in 1951 with a B.A. degree in theology. In 1949, while a student at Oakwood, he married the love of his life and high school friend, Katherine. The union was blessed with five children, and all five are Oakwood alumni.

After graduation from Oakwood, Ralph was employed by the South Atlantic Conference. He pastored numerous churches in Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina. With the number of churches in his territory, he traveled to more than one church each Sabbath in order to minister to his congregations. "I would go to the furthest church first, and then head to the next church on each Sabbath, which would include three churches each Sabbath." Hairston conducted 30 evangelistic meetings across Georgia, Florida, and South and North Carolina, with more than 1,500 people accepting Christ because of his preaching. After a few years as a pastor, he was motivated to attend Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, in 1970 with his wife and five children. Despite the challenge of attending school and taking care of his family, he graduated from Andrews with a master of divinity degree. With the pastoral experience he gained and good leadership qualities, he was elected executive secretary of South Atlantic Conference in 1972, and moved from Jacksonville, Florida. He served in this capacity until 1980, when he was elected president of the Conference.

He was re-elected president on April 25, 1982, and serving until 1988.

The South Atlantic Conference had a new beginning with Hairston as president on January 1, 1981. The membership at that time was 13,448. By the end of 1987, the membership increased to 20,495, a total gain of more than 9,679 new members. During his presidency, the Conference acquired five HUD senior housing facilities, all still serving senior communities today. More than 1,000 individuals were baptized into the Conference every year for seven years. Nineteen new church buildings were built or purchased, and a new academy was opened in Atlanta — Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy. In 1983, a new 106-acre campground in Orangeburg, South Carolina, was purchased and developed.

During this time, more than 30 pastors and interns were employed under Hairston's administration. South Atlantic became the second largest conference in the Southern Union, the largest regional conference in the Southern Union, and the second largest regional conference in the nation out of 60 conferences.

Hairston owed much of his success to his wife, Katherine. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in 1989. At the time of his death, they were married for 70 years. Until his death, he was living in Atlanta.

As Ralph Hairston is remembered, it is timely to reflect on things that reveal his

character. One of his favorite Bible texts was Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path." His favorite sayings were "Time is too short and eternity is too long," and "Weeping endures for a night, but it has to get permission from God." His passion was helping those in need, and saving souls for the Kingdom.

Hairston will be remembered most by his family as a deeply spiritual man who loved God with all of his heart, and proclaimed that love to his last breath. He leaves to cherish his memories his wife of 70 years, Katherine Hairston; five children, Ralph (Zanetta) Hairston Jr., Anthony (Ann) Hairston Sr., Angelia Hairston, Teresa Hairston, and Derrick Hairston; nine grandchildren, Raymond (Jennifer) Saunders IV, Terrell Saunders, Anthony (Melina) Hairston Jr., Candice Butler, Tracey (Tarron) Carter, Crystal Hairston, Samantha Hairston, Reggie Hairston, Nathan (Erica) Hairston; 13 great-grandchildren, Raymond Saunders V, Jaxson Saunders, Ayana Warner, Anthony Hairston, Jailyn Hairston, Isaac Hairston, Ryan Butler, Ramira Hairston, Ryan Hairston, Trey Scott, Keira Hairston, Eriel Hairston, and Kailyn Hairston; and two step-great-grandchildren, Tavari Carter and Amauri Carter. ①

# *Southeastern Holds* 2019 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

BY NICOLA MCCLYMONT-STODDART



PHOTO BY: MARCEL SUTHERLAND

Leadership summit attendees were able to listen to presentations in their own language via translation devices. General sessions and workshops exposed church leaders to the trends, issues, and best practices in organizational and church leadership.

The church environment in the 21st century demands intuitive and adaptable leaders. These types of leaders are deliberate about engaging in consistent self-improvement and self-assessment activities to remain on the cutting edge of effective church leadership. With the objective of exposing church leaders to the trends, issues, and best practices in organizational and church leadership, the

Southeastern administration, along with the Executive Committee members, directors, pastors, principals, office professionals, and more than 1,400 lay leaders, members, and friends, gathered at the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek Resort for the 2019 Southeastern Conference Leadership Summit. It was evident that the Lord blessed through excellent training and Spirit-filled inspiration.

## **Southeastern Conference Imperatives**

With delight, Gregory O. Mack, president of the Southeastern Conference, passionately shared the accomplishments of the administration since its inception in 2016, within the context of the five major imperatives that are strategically aligned with Southeastern's mission to help the Conference leverage and reinforce its mission:



**“Children, Youth, and Education:** We will give our best to our children and youth, preparing them for leadership and service to God and humanity.

**“Transformational Leadership:** We will lead like Jesus, promoting a culture of integrity, accountability, and excellence at all levels.

**“Community Outreach and Evangelism:** We will reach and transform communities with hope and wholeness.

**“Financial Stewardship:** We will position ourselves to support and fund mission

while nurturing a culture of fiscal transparency and accountability at all levels.

**“Campground Improvement:** We will improve facilities on our campground, creating an environment of wholeness and rejuvenation.”

Southeastern is poised for greatness — to the glory of God. Southeastern has been truly blessed by God, and it is obvious that great strides have been made in all the strategic initiatives. The workers will continue to look to the Savior as He continues to

guide them in the future to greater heights.

### Speakers

The Summit began with training for pastors, who received resources and information on different topics for developing a culture of excellence, pastoral self-care, leadership and team development, and accountability. They were challenged to strive for excellence and relevance, especially in this age of moral relativity. Many pastors expressed appreciation for the presentations, and recommitted themselves to



PHOTO BY: MARCEL SUTHERLAND

Balvin Braham, Ph.D., assistant to the Inter-American Division president and summit devotional speaker, led the Southeastern team in prayer of dedication to close the summit.

excellence in their respective districts.

Pastors' spouses and women of Southeastern were also treated to presentations on achieving excellence, focusing on spiritual growth, motivation, and personal and professional growth. The women were motivated and encouraged to move to the next level with God.

Jake Mulder, director of strategic initiatives, led out the plenary sessions which focused on innovative approaches to leading and engaging millennials, and Reggie McNeal, Kingdom leadership specialist, focused on strategies for leading a movement and missional church. Bertrum Melbourne, Ph.D., professor at Howard University School of Divinity, shared with the participants valuable information regarding transformational leadership and

finishing well. Hyveth Williams, D.Min., challenged the audience with a powerful message on courage and taking action.

Balvin Braham, Ph.D., assistant to the Inter-American Division president, was the Summit's devotional speaker. The Lord used him mightily to recharge the attendees' relationships with God. Attorney Josue Pierre, associate general counsel from the General Conference, articulated the risks and liabilities that face the Church and conferences, and charged the group to help protect them from ascending and various liabilities. Dana Edmond, executive director of the Office for Regional Conference Ministries, shared eye-opening, relevant facts, and statistics regarding regional conferences. Adding to the success and the richness of the meet-

ings were several breakout sessions with speakers who shared their expertise and various approaches to developing sustainable ministries at the local level that will reach and impact communities with the Gospel.

The blessing of leadership development will continue to ignite the hearts of each member of the Southeastern Conference to reach communities for Christ as they look forward to the soon return of Jesus Christ. "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest," Luke 10:2. Never before has there been such a need in society for the Good News of salvation as there is today. 🕊



# Asheville-Pisgah is Learning, Growing, Shining



PHOTO BY: ALISHA MICHAEL



PHOTO BY: ALISHA MICHAEL

There's no busier classroom in any elementary school than a kindergarten classroom. Add the pre-kindergarten (pre-K) children and the happy chaos doubles. At Asheville-Pisgah Christian School (APCS), neighbor to Mount Pisgah Academy, the pre-k and kindergarten students, led by their teacher, Alisha Michael, engage in an intentional balance of age-appropriate play and academics, interwoven with the love of Jesus Christ and the scriptural teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Each week students dive into a new biblical, seasonal, holiday-related, or science- or social studies-based theme, both teacher-created and derived from the Southern Union curriculum. Making self-portraits during "Jesus Loves Me Week"; studying animal habitats for "Life at the Zoo Week"; and watching a pumpkin decompose, picking apples at the orchard, and hunting for acorns like

twitchy squirrels during autumn-themed weeks are just a few things you'd see Michael's students doing.

Peek in when the weather's cold, and children might be acting as Mary and Joseph in Las Posadas (a Latin American Christmas tradition), exploring polar life by waddling about like penguins while balancing an egg on their feet, or creating blanket caves to "hibernate" in. When spring arrives, they fly homemade kites during "Windy Weather Week," watch God's miracle of metamorphosis at work in tiny tadpoles, and spend "At the Beach Week" listening for crashing waves inside seashells.

As for the traditional subjects, the masterfully written curriculum provides both pre-K and kindergarten-age levels with the opportunity to learn basic pre-reading, reading, and mathematics skills through a rich variety of games, activities, and projects. Yes, some time is

allotted at the table with pencil and paper, but hands-on learning rules the day. Art, P.E., music, and library with other loving, supportive teachers give the students a well-rounded school experience.

Most importantly, APCS pre-K and kindergarten students encounter Jesus. Prayer, singing, and Bible stories brighten each morning and set the tone for the hours ahead. A monthly focus on such concepts as empathy, generosity, compassion, and trustworthiness transforms young children from hearers into doers.

Pre-K and kindergarten days at Asheville-Pisgah Christian School are fun, educational, and relationship-building. As the school motto boldly proclaims, every day they're "Learning, Growing, Shining!"

BY ALISHA MICHAEL

# Westminster Church Burns Mortgage



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

The Westminster, S.C., Church celebrated the mortgage-burning for their family life facility on December 15, 2018. Thanks to the commitment of the members, the church was able to pay off the mortgage years before the note would be called in full.

As Robert Grant, pastor of Westminster, began this special part of the service, he reminded the members of two key individuals, Harry House and Ron Courtney, who made the project possible. He

invited Chad Grundy, undertreasurer for the Carolina Conference, and two women who are family representatives of House and Courtney, Joanna Crowe and Jacquie Courtney, to join him at the front of the church.

After Grundy commended the members in their diligent giving to pay off the mortgage early, Grant lit the mortgage and the flames climbed the edge of the paper. In a matter of seconds, the paper that once was stamped with the words "Paid in Full"

was gone. Grant closed the service with a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithfulness of God and his people.

The service was followed by a church-wide fellowship lunch, which featured a birthday celebration for one of their members. Westminster is a close-knit congregation committed to their church and to each other. ❶

BY COURTNEY HEROD

# Couples Visit "Old West" for Romance



PHOTO BY: JAYME ROUSE

It's a Valentine's tradition in the Carolina Conference for couples to convene at Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty, S.C., for the annual Romance at the Ranch. The two weekends in February, one for English-speaking and one for Spanish-speaking members, are anticipated as a valuable romantic getaway where spouses can renew their relationships and spend time together.

Eric Bates, director of family ministries at the Carolina Conference, along with his team of assistants, developed the programs

for the two weekends. The speakers for the English weekend were Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, and for the Spanish, Sara O. Bullón. In addition to their presentations, there was time in the program for activities around the camp, or simply walking around the beautiful lakeside property.

When the opportunity comes again, the Conference invites married couples to take advantage of this inexpensive, fun, and valuable chance to spend quality time with the one you love. ❶



PHOTO BY: JAYME ROUSE

Eric Bates, Carolina Conference family ministries director, and his wife, Ann Marie Bates

BY REBECCA CARPENTER



# GCA Students Help in Arizona, Ecuador



Not a typical sight in Ecuador, a truck was full of GCA students on spring break there to help build homes for those impacted by an earthquake in 2016.



A second mission group went to Holbrook Indian School to bring beauty.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: KALIE KELCH

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: KALIE KELCH

Service is at the heart of the mission of Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA), and each spring break this becomes evident when students spend their vacation serving others. This year, GCA offered two mission trip options.

Eighteen students headed to Holbrook, Ariz., and Holbrook Indian School with Kalie Kelch, assistant chaplain, and Randy Kelch, IT director. The boarding school is home to approximately 65 students from four tribes, mostly Navajo, in grades 1-12.

“Our goal on the trip was to show God’s love through all we did, whether working or playing,” said Kelch. “The group did such a great job working together, and staying positive in the midst of a number of crazy wind storms, not to mention the friendships they formed with the students. They took the time to talk, play, and tutor them. Our students were Jesus’ hands and feet in Arizona!”

During their stay, the students built two flagstone pathways, dug out three large

landscape beds to be filled with lava rock, removed a fence at one of the faculty homes, installed a horse treatment stall, and built a large corral. In addition to the maintenance/landscaping work, the students tutored the Holbrook students in math, and spent time playing with them each day.

“As I heard the stories of some of the children, I was blessed and inspired by their optimism toward life. I’m thankful for the opportunity they have to receive a Christian education. Many friendships were made over the week and a half, and I will never forget them,” said Aleah Clarke, senior.

The second group traveled to Ecuador to assist ADRA Ecuador and ADRA Connections with the construction of homes, in addition to providing medical care. Led by Serge Gariepy, vice principal, and Josh Woods, chaplain, 41 students worked to provide 11 families with new homes. The families had been living in tents or with relatives due to being displaced by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2016.

“It was such a blessing to work with ADRA in the Jama area. I watched our students’ reactions when the families who were recipients of the homes thanked our group with emotion in their voices. We were all moved by the experience,” said Gariepy. “Mission trips like this open up the world to our students. It is incredibly gratifying to watch them grow spiritually, culturally, and socially.”

A number of medical professionals donated their time and services on the trip, setting up two medical clinics and one mobile dental clinic. Together with the students, they served more than 900 patients. In the communities of Tabuga and Jama, students also presented a Vacation Bible School program for the children.

“This trip gave me a better perspective on what my life here is like. It helped me appreciate what I have. We take a lot for granted,” said Aspen Meadows, junior. ❶

BY KALIE KELCH



# EndItNow Weekend Presented at Atlanta North Church

Abuse is a word that takes on many roles of evil. Abuse is a word that for many victims brings on shame and blame. Abuse is a word all have been hearing far too many times in the news. But, what is really known about abuse?

The abuse statistics are alarming. According to the National Domestic Hotline, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States — more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year. More than one in three women (35.6 percent) and more than one in four men (28.5 percent) in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. One study in North America found that children exposed to violence in the home were 15 times more likely to be physically and/or sexually assaulted than the national average.

Atlanta North Church in Dunwoody, Ga., hosted a weekend dedicated to the endItNow movement February 23 and 24. A global initiative to raise awareness and advocate for the end of violence around the world, it aims to mobilize Seventh-day Adventists, and invites other community groups to join in to resolve this worldwide issue.

This initiative is the most important stand the Church has ever taken regarding vio-



SUBMITTED BY: HOMAIRA PALMER

**Sarah McDugal was the guest speaker for an endItNow weekend in February at the Atlanta North Church. endItNow is a call to action for all Adventists and supporters to stand up and put into practice those principles they hold true.**

lence against men, women, and children. This campaign was launched in October 2009 with ADRA and the Department of Women's Ministries, and has extended into more than 200 countries and territories.

The first session was held Sabbath morning with guest speaker Sarah McDugal, an author, speaker, and leadership development coach. McDugal works exclusively with female survivors of abuse. She discussed that abuse can occur within any relationship, whether familial, professional, or social. Abuse does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender can be a victim — or perpetrator — of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together, or dating. It affects people of all socioeconomic

backgrounds and education levels.

She went on to discuss the various forms that abuse can manifest, such as physical, emotional, financial, sexual, spiritual, and cultural. The session ended with a Q&A session where church members and guests asked questions and shared relatable stories, including a mother who lost her daughter to domestic violence, and another that was a victim herself.

The Sunday session included an informative presentation by local organizations that assist and rehabilitate women, men, and children who have experienced abuse. The session began with an opening prayer by Atlanta North's senior pastor, Edgar Alquinta. He was followed by four organizations: Wellspring Living, Partnership Against Domestic Violence, Alternatives to Violence Project, and Georgia Cares. These organizations hope to raise awareness of abuse, and to inform the public of the many resources available to victims/survivors.

Following these presentations, Alquinta held a training session to recap what was discussed over the weekend. When asked why he thought it was important to bring this topic to the church, he expressed that, "A healthy family equates to a healthy church," and that church should be a safe place, not a place of judgment. ❶

BY HOMAIRA PALMER

## Cooks Celebrate 65 Years

Richard and Vonda Cook celebrated 65 years of marriage on April 3, 2019. Richard served 20 years in the United States Air Force. In Tucson, Ariz., they came into the Adventist Church. Upon Richard's return from Vietnam, he and Vonda became Pathfinder directors. They spent four decades in Pathfinder ministry.

They moved to Cleveland, Tenn., in 1974, where Richard was employed at

Bishop Baking Company for 22 years. Vonda was a stay-at-home mom, working a few years to help with tuition.

They are parents of six children, Jeff (Dianne) Cook, Pamela (David) Lassiter, James Cook, Janice (Jim) Mechling, Eric Cook, and Patricia (Clay) Micklewright. They have 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. They find joy in spending time with their family, and travel as much as possible. ❶



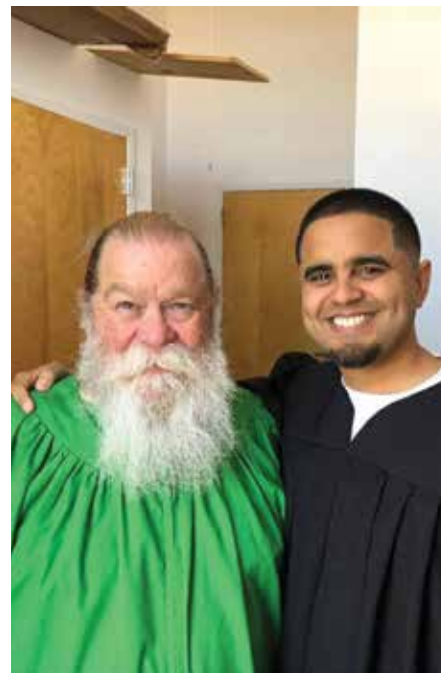
SUBMITTED BY: PAMELA LASSITER

Richard and Vonda Cook

# Panama City Starts Motorcycle Ministry



True and Geri Williamson ride to church while representing a motorcycle ministry.



True Williamson (left) poses with Jay Rosario, pastor, before Williamson's baptism in December 2018.

As soon as I came to this church, I knew I was finally home," were the words that True James Williamson shared with a group of church members at a midweek meeting. Williamson first visited the Panama City, Fla., Church with his wife, Geri, who had been baptized years ago but had not been attending since.

Though Williamson was an unfamiliar face to the church, he was well known in the community because he volunteered every year dressing up as Santa Clause for the Christmas show in town. Due to his fluffy white beard, he definitely fits the bill. Geri Williamson eventually decided to come back to church after 12 years of not attending, and that is when everything changed. Immediately they began Bible studies with one of the church elders, and True Williamson

made a decision to be baptized and become an active member.

"Ever since learning about the teachings of the Bible, I just can't keep my mouth shut," shared True Williamson. He has been actively witnessing and sharing his faith since his baptism during the Christmas season, December 2018. "It looks like Santa himself is getting baptized," is what one member humorously stated. True Williamson's desire from the onset was not just to be a member and warm the pews; he made it very clear that he intended to be active and bring people to Jesus.

As an avid motorcycle rider throughout his life, True Williamson had an extreme burden to reach out to the biker community. He was able to connect with a Seventh-day Adventist biker community named Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle

Ministry. Today, Williamson is the director of the Florida chapter for the motorcycle ministry, and hosted an event for all motorcycle riders who love Jesus or want to get to know Him better. An exceptional service was held Sabbath, April 13, 2019, at the Panama City Church as bikers from all over came to share their testimonies and invite their fellow biker friends to find answers to life. Those who were not bikers were encouraged to wear a leather jacket to make the visitors feel welcomed at the service.

True and Geri Williamson invite all to partner with them in prayer, as they would love to see many in the panhandle find themselves riding to the foot of the cross! 🙏

BY JAY ROSARIO



# Community Responds to Global Youth Day Outreach



Church members worked together on global youth day to deliver gift baskets to local first responders.

Kimberly Stewart was going about some daily errands as she walked into an animal hospital that coordinates with the Brookhaven Animal Rescue League. Stewart was donating a leg brace made for dogs that she no longer needed. The receptionist thanked Stewart for the donation, and as she began to leave, the woman behind the desk asked, “Oh, are you one of those Adventists?” Stewart, surprised at the question, turned and responded, “Yes, I am a Seventh-day Adventist.” “You brought a gift basket to the police department?” asked the receptionist. “Yes, we did,” stated Stewart. The Brookhaven, Miss., Church

had participated in global youth day just a few days before, March 16, 2019.

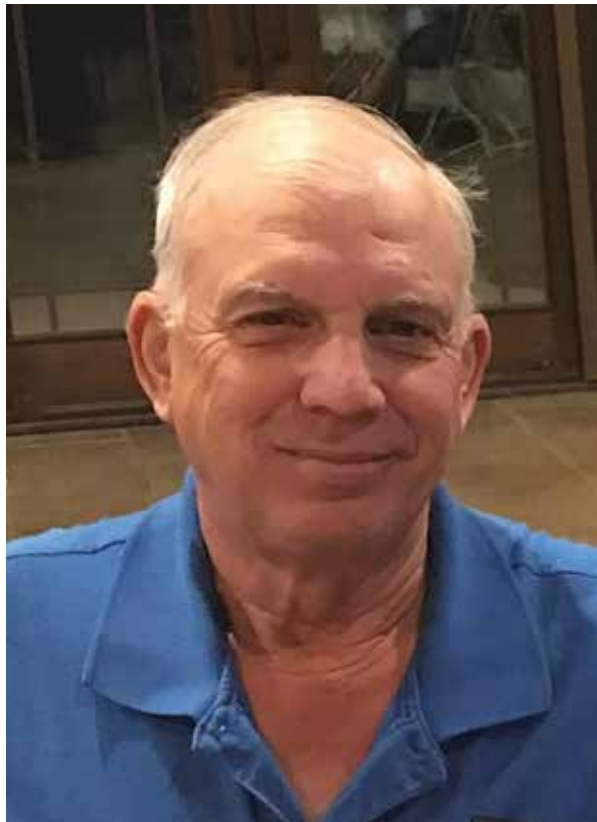
As part of their participation, the church organized and delivered gift baskets to the local police, fire, and sheriff’s departments. They also visited and sang at a local nursing home. After Stewart answered the receptionist’s questions, the woman stated, “Y’all are nice, Christian people,” as she waved goodbye to Stewart. As Stewart shared the story of this positive encounter in her community, she stated that, “Being called a ‘nice, Christian person’ is the best compliment I have ever received!”

Although global youth day emphasizes

special activities for a particular day out of the year, the goal is to encourage everyone to continue the simple, yet meaningful outreach on a regular basis. For Stewart and the Brookhaven Church, just a simple gift basket positively impacted their reputation in their community. Learn more about global youth day at [www.globalyouthday.org](http://www.globalyouthday.org). ①

BY MARCUS HARDEN

# Head Ranger Herb White Retires



Herb White

After 34 years of faithful service to the ministry of Indian Creek Camp (ICC), Herb White, head ranger, will retire. The end of May marks the conclusion of a legacy of dedicated support by White in furthering the mission of ICC. It is with a high degree of confidence that it seems certain no single person has presently served as the head ranger of a camp in North America longer than Herb White, and his tenure may be an all-time record of time in service for any Seventh-day Adventist youth camp throughout the North American Division.

The blessing that White has brought through his tireless work in maintaining and supporting the operations of the camp extend beyond the honor of a long tenure: it is also a testimony of his competency, his love for the youth, and his unquestioned dedication to God's Church and the mission of ICC. Throughout the decades of

his service, he was recognized for his ability to take on any challenge associated with keeping the facilities in great shape, and no matter what the obstacles, which sometimes included the challenge of finances, White would find a way to "fix, repair, and improve."

As he transitions to retirement, every member of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and countless guests who have been wonderfully blessed by his ministry at ICC join in expressing to him sincere thankfulness for his ministry. Following the conclusion of his service, White will continue to live within the Conference territory, and his wife, Dar, will continue to serve as the director of food services at ICC. Thank you, Herb White, for making a difference for the Kingdom through your service to God at Indian Creek! 🙏

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BY STEVE HALEY

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# Annual Music Festival Participants Perform Commissioned Piece: "Sing Alleluia"

With a rich 60-year history, the annual Music Festival, a premier event for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, was recently held at Highland Academy, where 268 students and more than 300 participants came together to lift instruments and voice in joyful praise to the Creator.

Along with Kentucky-Tennessee schools, two other conferences were also represented. Greenville Adventist Academy from the Georgia-Cumberland Con-

ference brought 35 students; and Gurnee Christian School, traveling more than 1,000 miles to participate in the events, brought eight students from the Illinois Conference.

Elaine Will, a dedicated and talented musician and member of the Lawrenceburg Church, has served as the coordinator of this event for 12 years, and has provided leadership on the Music Festival Planning Committee for 25 years. Will states, "It is my great joy and privilege to share

the gift of music with the students at this Conference." A highlight of the festival was the debut performance of "Sing Alleluia," which was composed and conducted by Daniel Bondaczuk, who serves as the minister of music for the Madison Campus Church. Commissioned by the Conference Office of Education, this piece was written to incorporate all performing ensembles, including vocal choirs, band, strings, and bells.

Clinicians included choral directors John





Daniel Bondaczuk (center), composed "Sing Alleluia" for the annual Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Music Festival.

Neumann and Jeremy Francisco, string ensemble director Ellen Francisco, band director Wes Bradford, and handbell and chimes ensemble director Shelly Miller. These musicians are dedicated to furthering in young people the understanding that music was intended to serve a holy purpose and "awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God," E.G. White, *Christian Education*, 62.3. Evelyn Hainey, science teacher at Gurnee, states, "There is a strong correlation between active participation in music programs and continued commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in adult life, and this is where I need to be putting my evangelism dollars." ①

BY PEGI FLYNT

## New Head Ranger Welcomed at Indian Creek Camp

With the transition into retirement of the much-loved and long-tenured Indian Creek Camp (ICC) head ranger, Herb White, comes an introduction to the Conference family of the new head ranger, Ben Copley.

Copley grew up in the Springfield, Tenn., area, and attended Highland Adventist Elementary and Highland Academy from first grade through high school. He attended Southern Adventist University (SAU), as well as Chattanooga State, earning an associate degree in technology from SAU. Copley's wife, April, is also familiar with the Conference. She graduated from Highland Academy and began her teaching career at Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School.

Copley comes to this role with a deep background of experience

in both residential and commercial construction, and currently is in business for himself servicing and repairing wells in the Florida panhandle.

In recounting the special place ICC has had in his life, Copley shares that his fond relationship with the camp goes back 35 years, including time spent as a youth attending camp, working as camp staff, and in grounds and maintenance. He even proposed to his wife on the ICC boat dock! He also chose to be baptized at ICC by Fred Fuller, elder.

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference is pleased to have Ben and April Copley and their children, Thomas and Kylie, join the Conference family! ①



Thomas (left), April, Ben, and Kylie Copley

BY STEVE HALEY

# Educator of 45 Years Passes

Mildred Davis Parker, 93, born November 23, 1924, in Tampa, Florida, died October 24, 2018.

Her mother, Lucille Moncur Davis, died before she was two years old. Her father, Eddie Davis Jr., and her stepmother, Rosa Lee Davis, nurtured a childhood for her that provided the foundation for her greatness. Mildred attended grade and high school in the Tampa Public School system. She was baptized at the Mt. Calvary Church in Tampa. She attended Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, Alabama, and received a B.S. degree from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mildred married Fred W. Parker, and from that time, this working mother invested her life in service to her community, her church, and her family.

She served more than 45 years in Christian education on various levels in the (former) Southwest Region and South Atlantic conferences. She was effective as a teacher, assistant principal, vice principal, principal, consultant, evaluator, supervisor, associate superintendent, and superintendent.

In 1946, Willie S. Lee and Walter Starks encouraged Mildred to accept the call to join the team of workers at the South Atlantic Conference under the presidency of H.D. Singleton. She will always be fondly remembered as an assertive, unprecedented visionary and “modern woman feminist” — even before the term was coined.

In 1949, she joined the team of workers in the Southwest Region Conference and taught in the church school in Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1954, she returned to her home conference, South Atlantic, and continued her teaching ministry in Florida, North Carolina, and Georgia.

She served on many boards, committees, and organizations throughout her career. A special honor was bestowed on her in December 1997. She was voted by the Conference Executive Committee, under the presidency of Vanard Mend-



inghall, as the first female education superintendent in the South Atlantic Conference.

One of her many mottos was, “Let the Lord lead...and be willing to follow.” She also cherished the texts, “Study to show thyself approved,” II Timothy 2:15, and “Study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands,” I Thessalonians 4:11.

Mildred was the mother of four children, and all are products of Adventist Christian education. As soon as each child was barely able to talk or sing, she put her children on the stage at church to recite Scriptures and passages in plays from memory. As a result, none of the children experiences stage fright, and each can easily speak publicly without being given much notice.

Mildred celebrated every milestone in each of her children’s lives, from graduations and pre-school to accomplishing a higher education degree. She and her husband valued Christian education and sacrificed for them to receive the best education possible.

The Meritorious Awards Committee of Oakwood College National Alumni Association presented the Parkers with the “Parents of the Year Award” in 1979.

The love that brought the Parkers together in matrimony matured and ripened their gifts into a total ministry that impacted many lives for Jesus Christ.

Once she and her husband bonded together, they became inseparable. Her husband spoiled her when their children went off to college. She never had to drive a car, although she kept her license current in case of an emergency. To this day, the family is not certain if she was not allowed to drive because her husband was the perfect gentleman, or if he had become fearful of her fast driving habits.

The Parkers celebrated their 80th birthdays and their 60th wedding anniversary in the same year. Their children were united in giving their parents a surprise event — dubbed “60/80 Live.” They coordinated the renewing of their parents’ vows by providing Mildred with a beautiful wedding gown and a crown fit for a queen. When they think of their mother, their parents’ relationship is what comes to mind; if you were around them only a few minutes, you would hear her husband call her “Queen Mother.”

It is doubtful if they ever spent many days apart when they did not call or speak on the phone. “Queen Mother” wrote letters to her husband every day when he was away giving weeklong evangelistic revivals. They were in love and stayed in love for more than 67 years until his death in 2011. Mildred was totally dedicated to her husband.

She loved her husband more than anything in the world, and the children think that one can make the case that Fred W.



Parker Sr., or, as the world came to know him, “The Burner,” would not have thrived without his wife.

The Parkers’ legacy is hugely important because they meant so much to the South Atlantic Conference and beyond, but they also meant the world to their children. Their desire was that their legacy, all they stood for, and the cause of their work — in education and pastoral ministry — would continually make a difference in the thousands of lives they touched.

She leaves to cherish and celebrate her memory her four devoted children, Fred W. (Bonita Dudley) Parker Jr., Walter W. (Marcheta Valentine) Parker, Willie

S. Parker, and Yvonne Parker (Aaron) Anderson; five grandchildren, Fred III (Juanita and family), Melanie, Kimberly, Mauria, Michonne (Dalton), and Angela; two great-grandchildren, Craig and Ramsey; six “adopted” great-grandchildren, Richard Jr., Travon, Dexter, Devin, Jania, and Chase; two brothers, Oliver Davis Sr. and Herbert Davis; one sister-in-law, Delores D. Davis; four nieces, Rose (Carvil), Olivia (Bruce), Diane, Daphyne; eight nephews, Oliver Jr. (Linda), Eric, Earl, Herbert Bergams Jr., Hollis Jr., Michael, Eddie, and Rickie; and a host of other family and friends.

Preceding Mildred in death were three brothers, Elmo, Hollis Sr., and Albert;

one sister, Inez; two sisters-in-law, Ruth Faye (Oliver) Davis and Irma (Herbert) Davis; and one daughter-in-law, Paulette (Fred Jr.) Parker.

Her husband’s death changed Mildred’s world. She was lonely without him, and said as much. She missed him terribly. She will rest much like she lived her life. In a private ceremony on November 17, 2018, Mildred Parker was laid to rest by her husband’s side at the Oakwood Memorial Gardens in Huntsville, Alabama, where they will await the second coming of Jesus Christ. ❶

## Wrens Members Share Christmas Joy with Inmates



Pictured are the Octagon Club representatives.



Prison ministries participants include Alvin Burch (left), coordinator; Tim Smith, elder; Calvin Oliphant, warden; Henry Lewis Jr., elder; Vander Holliday, security guard; Alex Scott, head deacon; and Robert Jackson, deacon. Not pictured is Edward Hall, Wrens Church newly assigned pastor, who encouraged the members to continue their unique community outreach projects.

The Wrens, Ga., Church members experienced a unique sharing of love and joy during the 2018 Christmas holiday season. Alvin Burch, who has regularly visited the Jefferson County Correctional Center distributing literature and Bibles, informed the members that the inmates also needed personal items.

A list was presented to the Board for soap, towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodor-

ant, socks, and snacks, and they added the books *Steps to Christ* and the *Great Controversy*, which included a “Your Friends the Adventists” card. Funds were unanimously approved to purchase the requested items, and several of the men agreed to help distribute the packages.

At the request of Ellen Farmer, a counselor at Jefferson County High School, the Octagon Club (a community services youth

club) representatives agreed to assemble the packages as their community outreach project for the month. A total of 165 packages were prepared and distributed on December 23, 2018, two days before Christmas. Many expressions of gratitude came from the inmates as well as the warden for the thoughtfulness of Wrens Church. ❶

BY CHRISTINE LEWIS

# What Can Chaplains Teach Students About Exceptional Patient Care?

As future healthcare professionals who are being trained to provide whole-person care, it's important that students not only practice the clinical healing of the body, but also experience the healing of the mind and spirit. As Edwin Alicea, Ph.D., director of pastoral care for the Orlando campus, said, "Sometimes when the body is broken, the spirit becomes broken."

AdventHealth promises wholeness in healing to its patients, and AdventHealth University (AHU) aims to provide skilled, compassionate healthcare providers who are trained in whole-person care. To better help prepare its graduates, AHU has instituted chaplain rounds where students in certain programs shadow a chaplain at one of the hospitals as they go through the day, visiting patients, loved ones, and even staff, to provide their services.

"Many people think we are just there to pray and that's it," says Alicea, "but sometimes that's not what the patient needs, or all that they need. A chaplain's services fall more on the side of emotional and spiritual advocate or counselor, or just being present and listening as an empathic, non-judgmental supporter."

Kaylee Holland, an AHU student in the masters of occupational therapy (MOT) program, recalled a chaplain offering drink and food to a patient's family during a visit. He listened to their troubles, and never imposed religious practices on them. "He was in tune and open to what each individual might need," she said.

The chaplain guides the student as they witness many states of fear, grief, and doubt. In her reflection essay, Holland wrote that seeing patients and their families in a vulnerable, difficult state inspired a desire to find a solution, even as she was aware there often isn't one.

Alicea talked about this feeling of knowing there are pains that physicians and chap-



lains can't heal, but what they try to do is make "moments," providing support so that the person who is hurting can "find hope in the midst of their darkest times." He quoted the verse Exodus 20:21 ESV: "The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was," and said that it is a common phrase among the chaplains.

The students who can experience this side of a patient's journey take away that message and learn healthcare providers should also strive to provide those moments of peace to their patients. Healthcare workers out of necessity operate on a task-focused, fast-paced schedule, but rounding with the chaplains reminds students that patient care also requires active listening, empathy, and compassion.


"Visiting patients with the chaplain reminded me that patients require space to process what they are going through. The chaplain I shadowed created a quiet space for them — asking a single question, and then patiently waiting for the answer," recalled Jenny Porter, an AHU doctor of physical therapy (DPT) student.

Holland said the chaplain reminded her that "[I] can be an advocate for the patient — allow them to have a voice and a choice, which can provide the patient more auton-

my and normalcy to their day."

Currently, the rounds are limited to AHU's graduate programs and the A.S. occupational therapy assistant (OTA) degree since there are only so many chaplains, and not enough time for every student to participate. However, Don Williams, Ph.D., AHU's director of the Office of Mission, has plans to expand the rounds to all degree programs.

"We are bringing chaplain rounding into the simulation lab. We have started filming virtual reality chaplain encounters using real chaplains and patient-actors," explained Williams. Afterwards, the team behind the project will conduct studies to determine the effectiveness of this method of delivery versus the traditional face-to-face.

AHU wants to develop skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ, and chaplain rounds give them an immersive understanding of what Christ's healing values look like in practice. By understanding the importance of spiritual and mental wellness to a person's overall health, AHU's graduates are educated to become practitioners and advocates of whole-person care. 

BY LISA MARIE ESSER



# School of Religion Offers New Master's Degree in Biblical Counseling

This summer Southern Adventist University's School of Religion will begin offering a biblical counseling emphasis for its master of ministry degree, a first for any Adventist institution. The goal is to equip church leaders with the skills to counsel using biblical foundations.

The degree is a collaboration between the University's religion, psychology, and social work programs. According to Alan Parker, D.Th., professor in the School of Religion and program director, the degree is tailored to help participants know how to provide appropriate counsel and referrals to individuals who may approach them with problems.

"When we looked at creating the emphasis, we established that we didn't want to take the place of professional counseling," Parker said. "Most pastors are not equipped for that. We want something



**Religion Professor Alan Parker has been influential in establishing the new master's degree emphasis in biblical counseling, which will be the first at any Adventist institution.**

that can be like triage. People will come to their pastor and say, 'My marriage is in trouble,' 'I'm struggling with depression,' 'I have an addiction problem.' We wanted to help pastors and church leaders be able

to process that and address it from a Gospel-centered basis."

Parker said the program is meant to go beyond just praying and reading Scriptures to those in need; students will learn how to apply relevant psychological principles and advice to supplement additional outside clinical counseling, if needed.

"We're teaching students the type of biblical counseling that can work alongside clinical counseling," Parker said. "Even if a person needs professional counseling, what the Gospel can do can help them, and what the church community can do can help them is important."

Thanks to a sponsorship by the Southern Union, Church employees in the South may be eligible to complete the degree program for free. To learn more about the program, visit [southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://southern.edu/graduatestudies).

BY TIERRA HAYES

# Cooperative Learning Enhances Biology Labs

Southern professors constantly look for ways to make learning fun, memorable, and effective. Last year, the Biology Department introduced an innovative, interactive teaching exercise called Jigsaw to its advanced anatomy and physiology labs, and professors are seeing positive results.

This cooperative learning technique involves students working in pairs to become "experts" on a portion of the day's topic. They draw anatomy diagrams, find answers to written questions, and verify their information with the teacher's assistants. Then, the students are responsible for effectively teaching the information to other pairs of classmates, and in turn, learning the remaining portions of the topic from other groups. In the end, each individual student



**Eveling Grajales, senior biology major, works with her partner to diagram part of the digestive system.**

is quizzed on the entire topic.

"Basically, we're having students collectively put all the pieces together on any

given topic so they can see the whole picture," said Rick Norskov, M.D., professor of biology.

By incorporating a variety of learning styles and increasing student responsibility, this technique engages students on a deeper level.

"I appreciate these hands-on learning/teaching experiences," said Ashlyn Howell, sophomore allied health major.

While students enjoy the exercise, Norskov emphasizes that enjoyment isn't enough — it needs to actually work. So far, since this technique was introduced a year ago, average exam scores have increased several percentage points.

BY STAFF WRITER



**AUSTIN, WILEY C.**, 88, born in 1931, died Feb. 25, 2019 in Chattanooga, TN, after a short illness. As a chemistry professor at Union College (1966-1977) and Southern Adventist University (1977-1996), he trained many nursing and dental hygiene professionals.

After his retirement, Wiley enjoyed many hobbies, including photography, studying, gardening, enjoying conversations, and taking trips across Europe and Asia.

He is survived by his daughter, Dawn Austin of Denver, CO; and son, Russell Austin of Evensville, TN. His wife, Alice Austin, preceded him in death.

We are longing for the day when "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain," Revelation 21:4. A Memorial Service will be held at a future date.

**BROWN, JACQUELINE (EVANS)**, 89, born Jan. 8, 1930 in Mocksville, NC, died March 5, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. She was member of the Fort Myers, FL, Church. She graduated from Walla Walla College in College Park, WA, in 1949, at the young age of 19 with her B.A. in English with secretarial science and secondary education minor.

She taught college English for three years at Southern Adventist University (formerly Southern Missionary College) where she met the love of her life, Bill Brown. Settling into Fort Myers, FL, she taught grades 3 and 4 at Tice Elementary School with the Fort Myers Public School System for 30+ years.

She is survived by one sister-in-law, Mildred A. Evans; three nephews: Tony Evans, John Evans, and Gene Evans; and one niece, Patti Evans Fouche. She had one child, Karen, who preceded her in death; as well as her husband of 48 years, Bill; and her brother, Ray Evans.



**GOODALL, DOROTHY J.**, 83, born May 1, 1935 in Hartford, CT, died Nov. 16, 2018 in Avon Park, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park Church. She was employed by the Northern New England Conference in Portland, ME, as an administrative assistant to the treasurer for approximately 10 years.

She is survived by her husband of 30 years, Ronald; two sons: Dannie Ragsdale of Portland, TN, and Frank Ragsdale of Miami, FL; one daughter, Valorie Fanning of Miami; one brother, Ralph Clifford of Jonesboro, TN; four sisters: Marilyn Alden of Amston, CT, Vernita Froid of Avon Park, Valorie Knowlton of Sarasota, FL, and Faith Tillbrook of Parrish, FL; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor George W. Brown at the Avon Park Church. Interment was in Randolph Center, VT.





**HAIGHT, TERRY PEASE**, 75, born July 12, 1943, died Nov. 8, 2018. Terry served as disaster response coordinator for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference since 1989. During the week of his death, he was on the front lines working in Donalsonville, GA, operating a warehouse distribution center for Adventist Community Services to aid those impacted by Hurricane Michael. Terry was an expert in disaster warehouse distribution, and often trained individuals from throughout the Conference. He worked closely with FEMA as well as the Georgia and Tennessee VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters).

He leaves to cherish his memories, his loving and devoted wife, Rhonda Haight; beloved children: Barbara Stricker and David (Tristy) Haight; grandchildren: Joshua, Deven, and Landon Stricker and Elizabeth Haight; and sister, Juanita (Robin) Erwin. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Winifred Haight; wife, Joan Haight; and son, Andrew Haight. Services were held on Nov. 13, 2018 at the Collegedale Church, with a graveside interment at Collegedale Memorial Park.

**JENNINGS, ADELE L.**, 68, born Sept. 15, 1950 in Providence, RI, died Oct. 2, 2018 in Port Charlotte, FL. She was a member of the Port Charlotte Church for 32 years. She was an elder, Sabbath School teacher, and served in other capacities as asked. Recently, she volunteered at the Community Service Center. She followed in her mother's footsteps and always knew she wanted to become an elementary teacher. She received a B.A. degree in elementary education from Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, MA. She began her teaching career at Cedar Lake Academy in Michigan, and then spent a brief tenure teaching in Africa and Viet Nam. She returned to the United States and taught at Spencerville Adventist Academy in Maryland, and at Garden State Academy in Tranquility, NJ. She then began teaching at Port Charlotte School for 30 years. She retired two years ago. Adele received the prestigious Zapara Excellence in Teaching Award. Her heart and soul were in Seventh-day Adventist Christian Education. She loved her students, and was passionate about teaching. She was creative in teaching in a variety of ways. She would travel in the summer and come back to Florida with new lesson plans and items to decorate her classroom. Her greatest desire was to see her family, students, classmates, and friends in God's Kingdom. She is survived by one sister, Marian (Paul) Richards; and two nephews: Kevin and Brian. The service was conducted by C. Lee Huff at the Port Charlotte Church.





**LABAR, CHARLENE W.**, 89, was born Nov. 4, 1929 in Albany, NY, died February 23, 2019 in Loma Linda, CA. She was a lifetime member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, most recently in Bonifay, FL, and Loma Linda, CA.

Charlene was a registered nurse who graduated from New England Sanitarium & Hospital in 1951. She worked in Labor and Delivery, Cardiac ICU, and long-term care for more than 40 years. Her denominational employment includes New England Sanitarium, Palatka Hospital, and Hialeah Hospital as an RN and charge nurse. In addition, she worked as an RN in a non-denominational hospital and nursing home facilities.

She served as a children's Sabbath School teacher, sang in the church choir and women's chorus, and was a faithful church pianist for more than 50 years.

She loved to laugh and had an amazing joy for life. She was an adventurer, and was up for any challenge. She dedicated her life to her children and grandchildren; was an accomplished seamstress, knitter, and quilter; loved table games, animals, and traveling, especially on Gaither cruises. She was a good cook and hostess. She loved to shop and she instilled her musical talent in her children, and attended countless thousands of hours of rehearsals and performances.

She married Lewis LaBar in 1951, who predeceased her. He worked in denominational hospital administration in Massachusetts, Florida, and Tennessee before going into long-term care administration. She is survived by their three children: Sandy Calvert, Pikeville, TN; Brenda LaBar, Loma Linda, CA; and Gary LaBar, Cleveland, TN; four granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service was held March 30, 2019 in Cleveland, TN, where she is resting until Jesus returns on that great morning when she will hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

**MONTERDE, MARCOS MAURY**, 72, was the second son born Oct. 19, 1943 to Luis and Luz Monterde, died Feb. 16, 2019. He was born on the family farm, which was located in Central Miranda on the Cuban Province of Oriente. He lived in Cuba attending primarily Catholic schools and a Seventh-day Adventist church school for one year until he was 16 years old. It was at that church school that he first learned about the Sabbath. His brother Luis attended the Seventh-day Adventist church school before him. Marcos saw such a positive change in his brother's attitude and behavior that he wanted what his brother had.

He arrived in the United States during the winter of 1959, fleeing the Castro regime.

He began Bible studies and attending a Seventh-day Adventist church. On a cold winter day in 1960, he was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church in Ozark, AL, the church did not have heat. He commented later that he thought he would freeze to death. In 1962, his family, which consisted of his parents and brothers, Luis and Joel, moved to Atlanta, GA, where he resided until January 1963. His family then decided to move to Puerto Rico in search of a warmer climate.

It was in Puerto Rico that the rest of his family was baptized and became members of the San Jose Seventh-day Adventist Church. There he was the director of the Pathfinder Club from 1964 to 1968. During that time, he took the Pathfinder team to the first place of the national competition drill team





in Puerto Rico. He married Elaine Foutch on Oct. 14, 1966 at a Seventh-day Adventist Chapel in Decatur, GA. They were members of the Duluth, GA, Church. He and Elaine moved to Puerto Rico shortly after they married. While living in Puerto Rico, Melissa, their daughter was born.

Marcos, Elaine, and Melissa returned to Atlanta in 1970. They attended the Marietta, GA, Church, where Marcos was a deacon and led the Pathfinder drill team. During this time, they had their second daughter, Marla. In 1972, He opened a business called R&M Diesel Inc., in Marietta. R&M Diesel was a company that specialized in repairing heavy equipment. It soon became the largest heavy equipment machine shop in the southeast. In the early 1980s, they welcomed their third daughter, Mandie, and son, Monte. Unfortunately, in 1986, Marcos closed R&M Diesel due to health issues. In 1987, he went to work for the insurance industry, and opened Americas Insurance Services Inc., in Smyrna, GA, in 1993. They were blessed with two wonderful grandchildren, Justin and Larissa McCurdy, and two sons-in-law, Rodney Lyle and Jim Brauer.

Marcos worked in the insurance business until his death. His greatest joy was to win souls for Christ. He was one of the founding fathers of the Mableton, GA, Hispanic Church, working tirelessly making sure that the church had a building of its own. He served on numerous church committees and boards, as well as committees with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He opened his office for potlucks after church, Pathfinder meetings, and Bible studies. Marcos shared the Gospel with all whom he encountered — passing out Bibles and Ellen G. White books to many who visited his office. He wanted nothing more than for people to know “His sweet Jesus, who had been so good to him!” But, most importantly, to know Jesus personally. Don’t delay, starting today to prepare yourself to meet Christ at his soon second coming.

**CARSWELL, MARY ALICE (BRITTAIN)**, 97, of the Salem community, born May 5, 1921, died Feb. 9, 2019. She retired from J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center (formerly Western Carolina Center). She was member of Morganton, NC, Church. She is survived by her daughter, Jonnie Elaine Peeler; son-in-law, Kenneth Earl Peeler; two grandsons: Danny Shawn (Tira) Duckworth; Darren Scott (Janie) Duckworth; six great-grandchildren: Clint and Shawna Duckworth, Joshua (Tabby) Duckworth, Jennifer, Joseph, and Lillian Duckworth; two step-grandchildren:

Kenny Peeler and Steven Peeler; step son-in-law, Leonard Butler; one great-granddaughter, Kena Rae Goodfellow; and one sister, Lillian “Patsy” Walker. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gaston Eugene Carswell; her mother, Lillian Morrison Branch Brittain; her father, Tilghman McDowell Brittain; one daughter, Judy Sharon Carswell; one son, Charles McDowell Browning; four sisters: Mildred Etta McHenry, Hazel Janette Carswell, Camilla Jean Bracket, and Ruth Irene Brittain, who died at childbirth; and one step-granddaughter, Patricia Gail Butler.

**DYKE, NORMA A.**, 84, born Dec. 28, 1934 in Windham, VT, died Feb. 9, 2019 in Nashville, TN. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. Norma and her husband, William Robert Dyke, served many years as medical missionaries in Kingston, Jamaica, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Forty years ago, they moved to Jellico, TN, where they worked at the Jellico Community Hospital until retirement. Norma spent the last few years of her life at the Maybelle Carter Retirement Community in Madison, TN. She loved traveling, took

her children all over the world, and continued traveling into retirement. She had a wonderful sense of humor, and loved poetry, reading, and going to church. Her last day started at the Madison Campus Church and ended with her resting in Jesus. Norma is survived by two sons: Rodney (Peggy) Dyke and Bryan (Denise) Dyke; two daughters: Heidi (Steven) Foulk and Sharon (Julie Berbiglia) Smith; one brother: Albert (Marie) Smith; three grandchildren: LeAnn (Serge) Gerapy, Rob (Sara) Dyke, and Stephen Dyke; five great-grandchildren; more than 50 nieces and nephews; and many other family members. Norma is preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Robert; her parents; and 10 of her brothers and sisters.

**ESTES, IVEY JEAN (WHITTINGTON)**, 76, born Sept. 3, 1942 in Caldwell County to the late Clyde Whittington and Minnie Waters, died Feb. 11, 2019 in Morganton, NC. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Raymond Estes; and two sisters: Karyn Garruto and Cindy Lawson. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by three brothers: Doug Whittington, Darrell Whittington, and Wayne Wittington.

**HAAG, LILLIAN MAY (MACMILLIAN)**, 101, born Oct. 3, 1917 in Carney's Point, NJ, died Nov. 24, 2018 at her home in Ooltewah, TN. She lived most of her life in Philadelphia, PA, where she worked as a nurse. Her favorite thing to do was

go to the Collegedale Church every Sabbath. She enjoyed singing, reading, and playing the piano. Lillian will be remembered by her son, Lester Haag; her daughter, Cheryl Schaeffer; and four grandchildren: Ryan, Kevin, Jillian, and Brett. A graveside service was held Nov. 30, 2018, at Hillside Cemetery in Roslyn, PA.

**KOVALSKI, PATRICIA A. (MULRANEY)**, 85, born Dec. 9, 1932 in Patterson, NJ, died Nov. 3, 2018 in Collegedale, TN. She was a member of the Collegedale Church. Survivors include daughter, Cheryl (Jeff Gilbert) of Northville, MI; son, Jack (Leslie) of Tecumseh, MI; two sisters: Joyce Trace and Margaret McDermott; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Memorial services were conducted by Cherie Smith in Collegedale, and Mike Fortune in Plymouth, MI.

**MILLER, GEORGE**, 77, born Jan. 5, 1942 in Warren, OH, died Feb. 1, 2019. George moved to Tennessee in 1960 to attend college at Southern Adventist University, where he received his bachelor's degree. He began his teaching career in 1965. In the mid 80s, he attended MTSU, where he earned his master's degree and eventually a Ph.D. in history. He retired in 1996 from Ridgeland High School. After his retirement, he enjoyed his love of aviation by building, restoring, and flying light aircraft, as well as working part-time at the Collegedale Airport. George was

a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He was preceded in death by his sister, Marianne; and his parents: Mary and Frank Miller. Living family members include his wife, Susan; son, Brett (Staci); brother, Hal; and stepmother, Bette Miller. A memorial service was held on Feb. 6, 2019, in the Heritage Funeral Home chapel in Chattanooga, TN.

**MINNICK, ALDEN WILLIAM**, 88, born June 14, 1930 in Warren County, Ohio, died in Hickory, NC, Jan. 21, 2019. As an employee of IBM, he assisted in developing the first GPS, and had the unique privilege of teaching the Gemini astronauts how to use the computer that would be onboard. It was as a young married couple, he and his wife became Seventh-day Adventists. He was committed to his God, thus making a commitment to daily study his Bible. He followed his passion by being involved in the church plant, Great Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church of Valdese, in his last years and serving as elder. He was the son of the late Ralph Minnick and Gladys Diehl Minnick. Family members left to cherish his memory are his two sons: Brandt A. Minnick, and his wife, Ingrid, of Brevard, NC, Keith L. Minnick, and his wife, Carolyn, of Pennsylvania; one daughter, Teresa Goodemote, and her husband, Dale, of Hickory, NC; one brother, Bruce Minnick, of Virginia; five grandchildren: Michael Minnick, April Jacobson, Rebecca Minnick, Catherine Minnick, and Brian Goode-



mote; four great-grandchildren: Max Jacobson, Finn Jacobson, Callie Jacobson, Ryan Minnick; many nieces; and nephews. Retired Pastor Barry Mahorney officiated at the Celebration of Life Service on Feb. 17, 2019, at the Great Hope Church, and interment is at the Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Black Mountain, NC. In addition to his parents, Alden was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Wilkinson Minnick; and brother, Ronald Minnick.

**PARRISH, CRAIG SANFORD**, 91, born Aug. 20, 1927, died Nov. 4, 2018 in a Florida hospital. He was a 1947 graduate of Collegedale Academy, and a 1951 graduate of Southern Missionary College. He was a veteran of the United States Army, and was retired from Bishop Baking Company after 35 years of service. Craig was a founding member and executive director for the Cookie and Snack Bakers Association (CASBA), and a retired board member of the Hiwassee Chapter of the American Red Cross for 44 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Reba Parrish; parents: Clay and Lucille Parrish; and brother, Horace Parrish. He is survived by his wife, Lois Harris; two children: Jennifer (Hal) Coble and Jana (Jason) Luellen; step-children: Lynne and George Parker and their family, and Jan Harris and her family; grandchildren: Ashley and Bryan Birmele, Zac Coble, Parker Luellen, and Anderson Luellen; great-grandchildren: Anakin and Ysabella Bir-

mele, and Baby Girl Birmele due in April 2019. Funeral services were held Nov. 11, 2018 in the chapel of Fike-Randolph & Son Funeral Home in Cleveland, TN, with Elder Harold Cunningham officiating. Interment was held in Chattanooga National Cemetery with Hal Coble, Zac Coble, Jason Luellen, Anderson Luellen, Bryan Birmele, Anakin Birmele, Gene Veazey, and Jon Terry Veazey serving as honorary pallbearers.

**RODRIGUEZ, RAMONA SAN-  
TIAGO**, 94, born Aug. 4, 1924 in Yauco, PR, died Feb. 28, 2019 in Nashville, TN. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. Ramona was a devoted mother, grandmother, aunt, and wife who loved her family unconditionally. She contributed her long life to the love received from her family. Her road to becoming a nurse included attending classes at Seton Hall University and Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). Ramona worked 29 years for the Board of Education for the state of New Jersey as a school nurse. She pioneered and founded Seventh-day Adventist Spanish churches in Hoboken and Vineland, NJ, and spearheaded programs to help the homeless, such as the Tiny Tim Organization. During the last 10 years of her life, her joy came from watching her great-granddaughter play the violin, and her great-grandson play baseball. She would direct her daughter to wheel her out to

the ballfield to watch him play. Ramona shared all her meals with her beloved dog "Trevor." She loved watching the birds come to her feeders, and keeping up with daily political news. She ended every day with a prayer. A prayer where she named every member of her family. She is survived by her daughter, Lisbedth (Franklin) Rodriguez Cardona; grandchildren: Jenevieve (Albert Allen Smith III) Cardona, Maresha (Jonathan Burks) Cardona; great-grandchildren: Jadyne Olivia Tarver and Albert Allen Smith IV; her second children: Robert (Donna) L. Morales, Tamar Marcoionni, Radames (Lucy) Morales Jr., Elba Rose (Ted) Traina, and Albert Morales; several great nieces; and nephews. Other than her parents: Modesto and Rosa Toro Santiago; she was preceded in death by her husband, Eduardo Rodriguez; one sister, Elba Rose Santiago Morales; and one brother, Dulcidio Santiago.

**SHOEMAKER, MONA BUR-  
KHALTER**, 75, born Nov. 7, 1943 in Kokomo, IN, died March 23, 2019 in Edgewood, KY. She attended the Pewee Valley Church in Pewee Valley, KY. Mona was raised in Corbin, KY, and graduated from Indiana Academy in Cicero, IN, in 1962. She attended classes at Sullivan College in Louisville, KY, for accounting. Mona was united in marriage on Dec. 30, 1978 in Pewee Valley, to the late William Taylor "Bill" Shoemaker. They resided in Markland, IN, beginning Nov. 1997, where Bill en-

joyed restoring their two-story brick home. She and Bill shared nearly 40 years of marriage together until he passed Nov. 4, 2018. Mona was a wonderful homemaker, and provided childcare for several years. She will be deeply missed by her loving family and friends. Mona is survived by her daughter, Amanda (Philip) Foster; four grandchild: Derek Taylor Foster, Leeann Nalley, Victoria Hope, and Braelyn Bland; one sister, Jane Ann Rambert; one sister-in-law, Jean (Jim) Ayars; three nieces: Melinda Jenkins, Deanna Johnson, and Christy Hope; and one nephew, David Lanter. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Taylor "Bill" Shoemaker; parents: Maurice and Mona (Walker) Burkhalter.

**SMITH, LILLIAN**, 92, born Nov. 27, 1926, died Jan. 25, 2019. She was a dedicated nurse, loving matriarch, and wife of the late Andrew Smith. She was the mother of Leroy Joseph of Arab, AL, Wayne Andrew of Collegedale, TN, and the late Edwin Harry; the grandmother of six; and great-grandmother of five lovely ladies. A memorial service was held March 23, 2019, at the Chattanooga First Church in Chattanooga, TN.

**SPICER, DAVID MILTON**, 68, born Feb. 22, 1950 in Niles, MI, died Jan. 18, 2019 AT his home in Ooltewah, TN, after fighting cancer for almost four years. He was the son of Anna and Eldon Spicer. David worked for McKee Foods Corp. for more than 43 years as a senior systems analyst.

A devoted husband and father, even during his treatment, he quietly took care of his family. In his spare time and after retirement, David enjoyed bird and butterfly watching, photography, and traveling. David is survived by his wife, Judee (Hallman) Spicer; two sons: Jonathan and Scott Spicer; sister, Nancy Spicer of Portland, OR; four nieces; two nephews; and eight grandnieces; and nephews. A private graveside service was held Feb. 3, 2019, at the Collegedale Memorial Park.

**STEWART, ALBERT D.**, 87, born Feb. 3, 1932, died March 22, 2019. He was a member of the South Louisville Church in Louisville, KY. Albert was a Jamaican native where he served in the military. He retired from Brown Forman. He is survived by two brothers: Ronald Stewart and Salomon Stewart; three sisters: Cecelia Patterson, Irene Davis, and Angel; and supporting friend, Gail Blake. He was preceded in death by his parents: Caleb and Josephine Stewart; and two sisters: Enid King and Iseline Mullings.

**WEARNER, BRITTNEY ERIN**, 30, born Nov. 10, 1988, died Feb. 8, 2019. She was preceded in death by her mother, Carla (Thompson) Wearner in 2015. She is survived by her father and step-mother, Neal and Nancy Wearner; her brother, Todd Wearner; her sister and brother-in-law, Jenny and Ivan Byrd; her nieces and nephews, Maya, Elliot, David, and Henry Byrd; along with

many loving friends, and her supportive boyfriend, Bill Lewis. Brittney enjoyed creating and crafting, spending countless hours sewing quilts, clothing and purses, knitting and crocheting, hand-making jewelry, and more. Another artistic outlet for Brittney was hair and makeup, making new looks for herself and others. Her endless creativity will be missed. She was also a loving, fun mom to many cats throughout the years, as well as to two special dogs more recently, Joleen and Bubbles. Brittney's beautiful spirit and joy for life, despite her many challenges, will live on in all those who loved her. A celebration of life was held Feb. 16, 2019, at the Collegedale Memorial Park in Collegedale, TN. Per Brittney's request, attendees wore rainbow colors, and shared happy memories.

**WILLIAMSON, IMOGENE LUCILLE (SUTTLE)**, 85, born March 24, 1933 in Burke, County, NC; died Jan. 28, 2019 in Morganton, NC. She was the daughter of the late James D. Suttle and Gazzie Novella Dayberry Suttle. She is survived by her children: George (Debra) Williamson and Ruth (Tommy) McLean; and two grandchildren: Ben and Sarah Williamson. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, George Rufus Williamson.

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*Administration, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370 Collegedale, TN 37315. [5]*

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks full-time graduate faculty to join our mission-focused team. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the MSN and DNP levels. Candidate must hold current acute care NP certification. Requisite qualities include advanced practice nursing experience, interest in research, successful teaching, flexibility, and commitment to SDA education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the SDA Church. Doctorate strongly preferred; MSN required. *Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to search committee chair, Christy Showalter, cshowalter@southern.edu in the School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [5]*

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# Walla Walla University

## CAROLINA

**HISPANIC CAMP MEETING I** - May 3-5. José Espósito. NPR.

**MPA GRADUATION** - May 17-19. MPA.

**CAMP MEETING** - May 26-June 1. Lake Junaluska.

## FLORIDA

**COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE** - floridaconference.com/events

A Better Choice / Florida Adventist Book Center - Altamonte Springs: 407-644-4255. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: Flori-daABC@floridaconference.com

**CREATIVE MINISTRY TRAINING** - May 11. 2-5 p.m. Pompano Beach Church, 3401 NE 3rd Ave. Creative ideas for teachers in Beginners through Earliteen, for all interested in creative ministry, show & tell, networking, and hands-on experiences. Details: judy.smith@floridaconference.com or 407-618-0284.

**RED ZONE** - May 24-26. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Year-end celebration of Adventurer and Pathfinder club ministries. Worship experiences, award ceremonies, playtime, competitions, and time together as a state family. Details/registration: kulaqua.com/2019-redzone-pathfinder-kulaqua-retreat-conference-center or 386-454-1351.

**FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER EXPRESS DELIVERY SCHEDULE** - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before noon on the Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery.

May 5. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

May 19. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

June 2. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

June 9. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

June 23. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

June 30. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

July 7. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville South-point. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

July 14. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**HISPANIC COUPLES RETREAT** - May 17-19. ParkVista Hotel. Cost: \$500 per couple. Register at registration.gccsda.com. Gatlinburg, TN.

**KOREAN CAMP MEETING** - May 17-19. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**HEALTH RALLY** - May 11. Join EW Dempsey from 2-5 p.m. Morristown, TN.

**HEALTH RALLY** - May 25. 2-5 p.m. Rock Spring, GA.

**COLLEGE DALE CAMP MEETING** - May 29-June 2. Featured speaker: Ty Gibson, co-director of Light Bearers and pastor of the Storyline Church in Eugene, OR. There will be seminars, children's programs, a ministry expo, and more. Come and enjoy the fellowship. Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.

**CAMP MEETING RECOVERY DAY** - June 3. The office will be closed.

**ACF/ERC MISSION TRIP TO SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** - June 6-16. A mission adventure sponsored by the Evangelistic Resource Center at Southern Adventist University and Adventist Christian Fellowship.

**OLDE TIME CAMP MEETING** - June 6-8. Speaker Chester Clark, pastor of the Dalton, GA, Church. Meister Memorial Church, Deer Lodge, TN.

**HEALTH RALLY** - June 8. 2-5 p.m.

Fannin County Church, Morgantown, GA.

**COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMP, JUNIOR I** - June 9-16. For information, check www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

**HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT** - June 14-16, 2019. More information and registration at registration.gccsda.com. Early bird \$25 discount if registered before May 15, 2019.

**COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMP, JUNIOR II** - June 16-23. For information, check www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

**PERSONAL MINISTRIES RALLY** - June 22. 2-5 p.m. Nigerian Church, Lithonia, GA.

Register for events on the Conference website, www.gccsda.com.

## GULF STATES

**BASS CAMP MEETING** - Hope Heals - May 22-25. Mike Tucker will be the keynote speaker for this event at Bass Memorial Academy. www.gccsda.org/events

**HISPANIC CAMP MEETING** - May 31-June 2. Bass Memorial Academy www.gccsda.org/events

**SUMMER CAMPS** - June 2-July 12. Camp Alamisco. www.campalamisco.org/summer-camp

**TEEN INVITATIONAL: CANOEING** - Sept. 8. www.gccsda.org/youth-ministry-events

**FACE TO FACE YOUTH RALLY** - Sept. 28. Cody Road Church, Mobile, AL. www.gccsda.org/youth-ministry-events

## KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

**CAMP MEETING** - May 24-June 1. Highland Academy.

**HISPANIC CAMP MEETING** - June 7-8. Highland Academy.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - June 11. Conference Office.

**COLLEGIATE CUBA MISSION TRIP** - June 22-29.

**MINISTERS' MEETINGS** - July 21-24. Indian Creek Camp.

**50+ CAMP** - Aug. 6-11. Indian Creek Camp.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**SUMMER CLASSES BEGIN** - May 6. Numerous online courses are available for both undergraduate and graduate curriculums. Prospective students must apply and be accepted before registering. Start the process at [southern.edu/apply](http://southern.edu/apply).

**ACADEMIC SUMMER CAMPS** - June 17-19. Southern is hosting camps for high school students in automotive repair, business entrepreneurship, computing, creative writing, filmmaking, journalism, outdoor adventure leadership, photography, pre-med, psychology, social work/missions, and vegetarian culinary arts. Registration is \$150 for day students or \$200 for overnight campers staying in residence halls. For more information or to register, visit [southern.edu/camps](http://southern.edu/camps) or call 423-236-2781.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MIDPORT CHURCH CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY** - May 18. Address: 1800 SE Veterans Memorial Parkway, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952. "The Faith of the Few," is the theme for the celebration including: 9:30 a.m., Sabbath School Lesson; 10 a.m., history of the church with speakers, slides, and musical interludes; 11 a.m., worship service with former conference president, Mike Cauley; 12:30-2:30 p.m., luncheon; and 3 p.m., Charles Haugabrooks concert. For further information, call 772-398-3225 or 772-209-1030.

**RAMAH JUNIOR ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION** - May 3-5. Celebrating 105 years of Christian Education in Savannah, GA. On Sabbath, May 4, Dr. Ron C. Smith, president of the Southern Union Conference, will be the guest speaker. On Sunday, May 5, renowned recording artist, Whitley Phipps, will be in concert, featuring Angela Moore Corinthian, along with Pastor David A. Smith, executive secretary of the South Atlantic Conference.

**"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION** - June 7, 8. For alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net>.

**ANDREWS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY AND THE CEDAR RAPIDS IA SDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION** - June 14, 15. Come celebrate 100 years of Adventist Education in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, especially if you are alumni. More information at [www.andrewsca.org](http://www.andrewsca.org) or email Centennial @andrewsca.org.

**ADVENTIST ENGLISH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (AEA)** - June 20-23. Early Bird registration is now open. Visit [adventistenglishassociation.org](http://adventistenglishassociation.org) for registration information.

**THE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST LIBRARIANS** invite all Seventh-day Adventist librarians and friends of libraries to attend the 39th Annual Conference in Silver Spring, MD, June 24-27. The Conference will explore "Librarians Outside Libraries," with a special emphasis on what Adventist librarians are doing professionally outside their offices, such as collaboration, teaching, research, mentorship, and more. For more information about the Conference, visit <https://www.asdal.org/conferences/>.

### SUNSET

	APR 5	APR 12	APR 19	APR 26	MAY 3	MAY 10
ATLANTA, GA	8:01	8:06	8:11	8:17	8:22	8:28
CHARLESTON, SC	7:42	7:47	7:52	7:58	8:03	8:08
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:48	7:53	7:59	8:05	8:11	8:16
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:05	8:10	8:16	8:21	8:27	8:33
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:10	7:16	7:22	7:27	7:33	7:38
JACKSON, MS	7:23	7:28	7:33	7:38	7:43	7:48
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:10	8:16	8:23	8:29	8:36	8:42
MEMPHIS, TN	7:25	7:30	7:36	7:42	7:47	7:53
MIAMI, FL	7:39	7:42	7:46	7:49	7:53	7:56
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:08	7:13	7:17	7:22	7:28	7:33
NASHVILLE, TN	7:12	7:18	7:24	7:30	7:36	7:42
ORLANDO, FL	7:45	7:49	7:53	7:57	8:02	8:06
TAMPA, FL	7:49	7:53	7:57	8:01	8:05	8:09
WILMINGTON, NC	7:35	7:41	7:46	7:52	7:57	8:03



## 2019 CAMP MEETINGS SCHEDULES

### CAROLINA

Portions of Camp Meeting will be viewable at [www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting](http://www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting)  
 English.....May 26-June 1.....Theme: *Homesick for Heaven*.....Lake Junaluska, NC  
 Sunday-Wednesday Speaker: Dan Jackson  
 Thursday-Sabbath Speaker: Bob Folkenberg Jr.  
 Hispanic 1..... May 3-5.....José Espósito..... Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC  
 Hispanic 2.....Sept. 6-8.....José Espósito.....Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC  
 Eastern Carolina .....Oct. 19.....Summerville Community Church.....Summerville, SC  
 Speaker: Richard Halverson

### FLORIDA

English.....April 11-14.....Theme: *Walking Together in Faith, Hope, and Love*  
 Speaker: Mark Finley.....Camp Kulaqua, FL  
 Accommodation/Meal registration and archived sermon video:  
[floridaconference.com/campmeeting](http://floridaconference.com/campmeeting)  
 Spanish.....April 26-28.....Theme: *Caminando Juntos en Fe, Esperanza, y Amor*  
 Speaker: Oscar Lopez.....Camp Kulaqua, FL  
 Accommodation/Meal registration: [floridaconference.com/campestre](http://floridaconference.com/campestre)

### GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Details: [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)  
 Korean.....May 17-19.....Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA  
 Collegedale.....May 29-June 2.....Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN  
 Theme: *Growing Young*  
 Speaker: Ty Gibson  
 Olde Time.....June 6-8.....Meister Memorial Church, Deer Lodge, TN  
 Theme: *Growing Young*  
 Speaker: Chester Clark  
 Deaf Fellowship.....Aug. 7-11.....Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA  
 Theme: *Is There a Doctor in the House?*  
 Speaker: Dr. Schubert Palmer  
 Hispanic.....Sept. 1-8.....Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA  
 Theme: UN12  
 Que gocen de una unidad tan perfecta que el mundo sepa.....Juan 17:23  
 Northeast Tennessee.....Sept. 20-21.....The Oaks Retreat, Greeneville, TN  
 Theme: *Growing Young*

Sabbath in the Smokies.....Sept. 27-28.....Cades Cove, TN  
 Church Ministries Training.....Nov. 16.....Wimbish Road Church, Macon, GA

### GULF STATES

Details: [www.gcsda.org/campmeeting](http://www.gcsda.org/campmeeting)  
 Theme: *Hope Heals* May 22-25 ..... Bass Memorial Academy  
 Wednesday and Thursday Speaker: Susanne Vyhmeister  
 Friday and Sabbath Speaker: Mike Tucker

### KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

Theme: *Our Greatest Need*.....Highland Academy, Portland, TN  
 English.....May 24-June 1  
 Speakers: David Smith, Douglas Na'a, Ron Halverson Jr., Ken Wetmore, and Steven Mosley  
 Hispanic.....June 7, 8.....Highland Academy, Portland, TN

### SOUTH ATLANTIC

June 6-15.....River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC

### SOUTH CENTRAL

Latino.....May 23-25.....Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL  
 Haitian.....June 7, 8.....Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL  
 English.....June 7-15.....Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL

### SOUTHEASTERN

English- Adult/Main Pavilion.....June 19-29.....Hawthorne, FL  
 Youth Pavilion..... June 19-29.....  
 Hawthorne, FL

## 2019 SUMMER CAMPS SCHEDULES

### CAROLINA

Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC  
 Register online at [www.nosoca.org](http://www.nosoca.org)  
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-11)..... June 16-23  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-13) ..... June 23-30  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16) ..... June 30-July 7  
 Family Camp (all ages)..... July 15-19  
**Specialty Camps**  
 Horse Camping Trip (ages 14-17).....May 26-June 2  
 Lifeguard Camp.....June 2-7  
 SIT Camp (ages 16-17).....June 9-21  
 Water Sports Camp (ages 13-16) ..... June 16-23  
 Horsemanship I (ages 12-16)..... June 16-23  
 Horsemanship II (ages 12-16).....June 23-30  
 Horsemanship III (ages 12-16).....June 30-July 7

### FLORIDA

Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL  
 Details: [www.campkulaqua.com](http://www.campkulaqua.com)  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9)..... June 2-9  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12) ..... June 2-9  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-17) ..... June 2-9  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (ages 11-16) .....June 2-9  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9).....June 9-16  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12) .....June 9-16  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-17).....June 9-16  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (ages 11-16) ... June 9-16  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9).....June 16-23  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12) .....June 16-23  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-17) .....June 16-23  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (ages 11-16) .....June 16-23  
 Family Camp .....Aug. 30-Sept. 2

### GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Cohutta Springs Youth Camps, Crandall, GA  
 Online registration and details at [www.cs-yc.com](http://www.cs-yc.com)

Camp Staff Training.....May 30-June 8

### Regular Camps

Junior ..... June 9-16  
 Junior I ..... June 16-23  
 Adventure..... June 23-28  
 Junior III/Tween..... June 30-July 7  
 Teen I.....July 7-14  
 Rock Solid Teen I .....July 7-14  
 Teen II .....July 14-21  
 Rock Solid Teen II.....July 14-21  
 Family Camp .....July 23-28

### RAD Camps

Paintball Camp I.....June 9-16  
 Lifeguard Camp.....June 9-16  
 FitLife Camp.....June 9-23  
 DiscipleTrek Camp.....June 9-30  
 W.I.T. Camp (every week except June 23-30).....June 9-July 21  
 Ultimate RAD Camp.....June 16-23  
 Paintball Camp II..... June 16-23  
 S.I.T. Camp..... June 16-23  
 RAD Horse Trip ..... June 23-30  
 Wakeboard Camp I..... June 23-30  
 C.I.T. Camp ..... June 23-30  
 Paintball Camp III..... June 30-July 7  
 Basketball Camp .....July 7-14  
 Whitewater/Kayak Camp.....July 7-14  
 Wakeboard Camp II .....July 14-21

### GULF STATES

Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL  
 Details: [www.campalamisco.org](http://www.campalamisco.org)  
 Aquatics Camp (ages 13-17) ..... June 2-9  
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-11).....June 2-9  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-13) ..... June 9-16  
 Teen Camp (ages 12-16)..... June 16-23  
 Family Camp 1 (all ages) ..... July 1-7  
 Family Camp 2/Young Adult (all ages).....July 4-7  
 Family Camp 3 (all ages) .....July 7-11

### KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

Indian Creek Camp, Liberty, TN  
 Staff-in-Training (ages 15½-17).....June 2-7  
 Junior Camp 1 (ages 8-12) .....June 9-16  
 Junior Camp 2 (ages 8-12) ..... June 16-23  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16) ..... June 23-30  
 Family Camp 1 (all ages)..... July 2-7  
 Family Camp 2 (all ages)..... July 7-14  
 Family Camp 3 (all ages).....July 14-21  
 Lifeguarding Camp (ages 15-17).....July 22-26  
 Teen Adventure Camp (ages 13-17) ..... July 22-26  
 Teen Gymnastics Camp (ages 13-17) ..... July 22-26

### SOUTH ATLANTIC

River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC  
 Junior Bible/Summer Camp (ages 8-17)..... TBD

### SOUTH CENTRAL

Camp Thunderbird, Chattanooga, TN  
 Orientation/registration/details: [www.scc-adventist.org/summercamp](http://www.scc-adventist.org/summercamp)  
 Camp Staff Training .....TBD  
 Cub Camp (ages 6-12) ..... TBD  
 Friendship Camp (ages 8-17) .....TBD  
 Sports Camp (ages 7-17)..... TBD

### SOUTHEASTERN

Southeastern Conference Campground, Hawthorne, FL  
 Junior/Summer Camp ..... TBD

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